History Primer.

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AN ABRIDGED

OUTLINE

OF THE

HISTORY OF BENGAL.

BY

JOHN C. MARSHMAN, C. S. I.

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SECTION I.

The Country.

Bengal, or, as it is more properly called, the Lieutenant Governorship of Bengal, includes Bengal, Orissa, Behar, and Chota Nagpore. It is bounded on the North by the Himalayas, on the East by Assam and Burma, on the South by the Bay of Bengal and Madras, on the West by the hilly region which separates it from the Central Province. It is the largest, richest, and most populous division of India. The population is nearly 70 millions.

Government.—Bengal is under a Lieutenant Governor, with a Legislative Council.

Bengal Proper.—contains 5 Divisions under Commissioners; *viz.*, in the centre, the Presidency, Rajshahi with Cooch Behar; in the east, Dacca and Chittagong; in the west, Burdwan. The Divisions contain 24 Districts.

CENTRAL DISTRICTS.—Presidency Division: Calcutta and Twenty four Pergannas, Jessore, Nadia, Murshedabad. Rajshahi Division: Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Rungpur Bogra, Pubna, Darjiling, Jalpaiguri.

EASTERN DISTRICTS.—Dacca Division : Dacca, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Mymensing Chittagong Division : Chittagong, Tipperah, Noakhali, and Chittagong Hill Tracts.

WESTERN DISTRICTS.—Burdwan Division : Hughli, Burdwan, Bankura, Birbhum, Midnapur.

The Early Peoples of Bengal.

The early history of Bengal is very obscure. It is supposed that the first inhabitants were not Hindus, but of the same race as the Kols and their allied tribes, in the hill-country on the west of Bengal and in the Central Provinces. The ancestors of these Pre-Aryan races—the Kols, the Kasias and other hill tribes, entered Bengal from the North-East at a period long before the dawn of history. After the lapse of thousands of years, we can still trace the connection of the language spoken by these tribes with the speech of the Peguans, the Cambojans, and the dwellers in Tonkin and South-Western China.

The primitive people settled down into groups of forest hamlets, and each group acknowledged the authority of a common chief. They did not know how to tame cattle or to work them in the plough ; they raised crops by tilling the ground with a sort of bill-hook. But at an early period they learned the use of iron, and made implements with which they cut down jungle and formed clearings. They worshipped ghosts and spirits that dwelt in the trees of the forest.

The Dravidians.—The next race of mankind which made its appearance in India was the Dravidians. They entered the country from the north-west, and gradually spread southwards and east-wards. They seized on the best lands which the Kols had cleared, but in other respects they seem to have treated the Kols in a friendly

way. In many parts of India the two races blended together and formed new tribes. The Dravidians did not scatter themselves into forest hamlets, but settled in more open districts. They were from ancient times fond of trade. The Dravidian settlements were ruled by kings. The present revenue system of India is still founded on the old Dravidian revenue system which grew up thousands of years ago. They were the famous tree and serpent worshippers of ancient India.

The Aryan Stock.—At a very early period a nobler race from the north-west forced its way in among the earlier peoples and asserted their superiority over those whom they found in possession of the soil. Modern scholars infer that this race belonged to the Aryan stock, from which the Brahman, the Kshatriyas, the forefathers of the Greek and the Roman and the Englishman alike descended. Ages elapsed before the Non-Aryans were gradually driven by the Aryans from the fertile plains into the hills, where they remain to this day.

The Aryans conquered and occupied the whole tract of country watered by the Indus and its five tributaries, and gradually crossed the Sutlej, moved down the basin of the Ganges and the Jumna, and founded powerful kingdoms along the entire valley as far down as modern Benares and north Behar.

After 1,000 B. C., the kingdoms of Maga dha and Anga, i. e., South and East Behar, became completely Aryanized, and rose in power and civilization. And it was then, probably in the 5th or 6th century B. C., that Bengal proper and Orissa received from Magadha the first rays of

Aryan civilization.* In the fourth century B. C., when the Greeks visited India they found powerful kingdoms founded in Bengal and Orissa which they called by the general name of Kalinga. In the third century B. C. Kalinga was conquered by Asoka the Great, † and this conquest brought Bengal and Orissa in closer connexion with the civilization of Northern India.

Slowly and obscurely Bengal rose in civilization.. When about 640 A. D., Houen Tsang came to Bengal, he found civilized and powerful kingdoms in Pundra or Northern Bengal, Samatata or Eastern Bengal, Kamarupa or Assam, and Tamralipti or Southern Bengal, as well as in Karna Suvarna or Western Bengal.

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* Gautama Buddha.—In the sixth century before Christ, the kingdom of Magadha was rising to power and greatness, Rajagriha to the south of the Ganges was the capital of Bimbisara, king of the Magadhas. During his riegn, about the year 622 B. C., was born a young prince who became a famous saint. His father ruled over the Sakya tribe. Kapilavastu was the capital of the Sakyas, a hundred miles to the north of Baneres. The boy was named Siddharatha, but Gautama was his family name. He belonged to the Sakya tribe, and is therefore often called Sakya Sinha; and when he had proclaimed and preached a reformed religion—a religion, the great aim of which is the teaching of holy living in this world, he was called Buddha or the "awakened" or "enlightened".

† KING ASOKA.—Three hundred years after Buddha's death, in 260 B. C., Asoka ascended the throne. No monarch of India has such a world-wide reputation, and none has exerted such inflence on the history of the world by his zeal for righteousness and virtue. He made Budhism the state religion of Northern India. Asoka's name is honored from the Volga to Japan, and rom Siberia to Ceylon. He embraced the popular religion and became its most powerful promulgator all over India and beyond India. The great emperor has left his edicts in incriptions. cut in rocks, caves and pillars.

Religion.—The ancient Hindu religion had spread with the conquests of the Aryans. In the same way the religion of Buddha which made no distinction between the Brahman and the low born. obtained a sudden acccess in power, when low born kings ruled in Magadha, and were supreme all over India. Buddhism never supplanted orthodox Hinduism and the two religions remained side by side, gnerally at peace, for several centuries until it was suppressed by force and violence, and the Hindus once more followed one common religion.

Language.—There was an original language used by the original inhabitants, which is lost. The present Bengali character is the same as the Deva Nagar, only a little different in form.

Pala Kings.—After the fall of the Magadha empire, there was a race of kings of the name of Pala. Very little is known of the Pala kings except that they were Buddhists, but were tolerant towards Hindus, and employed Hindu officials. They never possessed East Bengal, but ruled on the west of the Bhagirathi. On the north it included the great ancient kingdom of Pundra Vardhana. *

The first independent king Gopala began his reign in 815 A. D. Gopala's Successor Dharmapala conquered Indra Raja of Barendra and married Kanna Devi, daughter of Prabala, " Raja of many countries." Dharmapala's successor Devapala was a great conqueror ; he subjugated the whole of Northern India, from the Himalaya to the Vindhya mountains. After one or two short reigns Vigrahapâla succeeded to the throne. We

* Tirhut, Maldah, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur and Bogra

learn from the Bhagalpur copper inscription that Vigrahapâla married the Haihava princess Lajjā. Vigrahapala in the end abdicated, saying to his son, "let penance be mine, and the kingdom thine." So Narayanapala, his son, succeeded and his successor Rajyapala was ruling all India from Monghyr to Kanouj when Mahmud appeared before Kanouj, 1017 A. D.

Of the successors of Rajyapala little is known until we come to Mahipala who reigned fifty two years, from 1028 to 1080 A. D. The king of Orissa is said to have been tributary to this powerful king. In the eleventh century the Sena Rajas of Eastern Bengal rose in power, and wrested from them the eastern provinces, leaving them Magadha, where the Pala kings continued to reign till the dynasty came to a sudden end shortly after 1178.

Sena Rajas.—The Sena Rajas were the last Hindu kings of Bengal; but their history is very obscure. Adisur * was the founder of the Sena family.

Adisur, king of Bengal, finding the Brahmans of the country unable to officiate at certain ceremonies which his wife wished to be performed, sent to the king of Kanauj, in Oudh, for some learned Brahmans; and the following five Brahmans of different families were despatched in accordance with his request—namely, Sriharsha, of the

* Vira Sena was the same as the renowned Adi Sura, who married the princess Bhoga Devi, the sister of Ansuvarma, Raja of Nepal. The issue of the marriage was Adtya Sena of Magadha, and it seems probable that the latter Sena Rajas of Bengal were the direct descendants of Aditya Sena Deva, the great king of Magadha. Some hold that the first Sena king of Bengal was a scion of the Valabhi Sena house of Saurashtra or some Sena house of Southern India.

Bharadvaja family; Bhatta Narayan, of the Sandilya family; Daksha, of the Kasyap family; Chhandara, of the Batshya family; Bedgarbha, of the Savarna family.

Some accounts state that these immigrant Brahmans first settled in Vikrampur near Dacca, while others assert that they originally settled in Nadiya.

Of Samanta and his son Hemanta little is known. The next king was Vijoy, and his son was the celebrated Ballala Sena. Vijoy is said to have conquered Assam in the east, and Kalinga in the south.

Ballala Sena was the most fomous king of the time and is said to have reigned fifty years. Very lately there has been dug up in the east of Bengal a copper plate which was engraved in the days of the Sena Rajas. It states that the father of Ballala Sena was Vijaya Sena.

It is said that the Brahmans and Kayasthas imported from Kanouj had multiplied by this time, and Ballala forbade all intermarriage between the original Brahmans and Kayasthas of the country with the descendants of the new comers from Kanouj. He set about reforming society, and divided the Brahmans, Vaidyas, Kayasthas, and pure Sudras into various ranks, which they still retain. The most virtuous he made *koolins*; but unfortunately he made this rank hereditary, which has been a great misfortune to the country; because the present koolins have all the honour, and but few of the virtues of their ancestors. In his time the country was divided into five parts.

Sriharsha was the author of Naisada charit, and Bhatta Narayan of Benishanhar.

1. **Barendra**, with the Mahananda on the west; the Padma (Ganges) on the south; the Karataya on the east, and other governments on the north.

2. **Banga**; east from the Karataya to the Brahmaputra. The capital of Bengal, Vikrampur, was situated in Banga.

3. **Bagree**, the Delta; called also Dwipa, or the island; it had three sides, the Bagirathi river on the west, the Padma on the east, the sea on the south.

4. **Rahree.** It had the Bhagirathi and the Padma on the north and the east, and other kingdoms on the west and south.

5. **Mithila**, having the Mahananda and Gour on the east, the Bhagirathi on the south; and other countries on the west and south.

CONQUEST OF BENGAL BY THE MAHOMEDANS.

We proceed now, to speak of the conquests of the Moosulmans. Their empire began with their prophet, Mahomet, who died in the year 640. Not long after his death, they subdued many kingdoms in Europe, Asia and Africa, and became the most powerful people then in the world. Before the year 1000, they had conquered all the countries west of the Indus. In that year, Mahmood, the King of Gizni, which lay sixty miles west of that river, came with a large army into Hidoostan. He plundered it of much spoil, and then returned to his own capital. Seeing how easy it was to conquer the Hindus, he came into the country twelve times in twenty five years; put to death many thousands of the natives; broke down the Hindoo temples and images, and plundered the country. He did not, however, take possession of any provinces, but those on the Indus. His capital still con-

tinued to be at Gizni, west of that river. His successors became gradually weak, and the Hindus courageous, and they retook many of the places which he had conquered.

At length, a very powerful Mahomedan chief destroyed his kingdom ; and established a new dynasty west of the Indus. This was Mahomed of Ghore. Mahomed Ghory came with a powerful army to invade India in the year 1191. He, in three years, conquered the whole of northern India. Before this time, although the Mahomedans had often overrun the country, there had still been a Hindu king in Delhi. Mahomed, however, resolved to keep the country which he had conquered. Hence he made his own general, Kootub-ood-deen, the governor of Delhi, and ordered him to send armies to reconquer the whole country. After the death of his master, Kootub became independent ; and he was, in reality, the first Mahomedan Emperor of India.

Kootub wishing to enlarge his kingdom, sent Bukhtiyar Khilijy, his general, to conquer Behar. He succeeded with great ease, and then Kootub ordered him to go on and conquer Bengal. The King of Bengal at that time was Lukshman Sen, of the old Vaidya family. By Mahomedan writers he is called Luckmuneya. He was the last Hindu King of Bengal. He sometimes resided at Gour, but more commonly at Nuddea. He was born after his fathers death, and was, therefore, from his birth, a king. When the Mahomedans invaded Bengal he was eighty years old, and was much esteemed for justice and generosity. Bukhtiyar, came to the confines of Bengal in 1203, and prepared to invade the country. No preparation had been made to resist Bukhtyar. He

marched with his army through Bengal, and approached Nuddea. On arriving near it, he left his troops in a wood and entered the city with only seventeen horsemen. Hearing that the enemy was upon him, he leaped out at a back door, threw himself into a boat, and fled to Orissa. But other accounts say that he fled to Vikrampore, the old capital of Banga, near Dacca. Nuddea submitted to Bukhtiyar; the Hindu kingdom of Bengal became extinct. Bukhtiyar marched from Nuddea to Gour; and took the city with ease. He pulled down the Hindu temples, and built Mahomedan mosques with the materials. In the course of one year, the whole of Bengal was entirely subdued by him. A year after the conquest of Bengal, Bukhtiyar marched an army into Assam. He then went up into the mountains, and was defeated. He returned ashamed and broken hearted, and died three years after he had conquered Bengal. Being at a great distance from Delhi, he did as he liked; he proclaimed himself independent: he read the Khootba in his own name; and he distributed the conquered lands of the Hindus among his own Khilijy officers. Thus they became so powerful that, after this, they often made whom they would governor of Bengal.

On the death of Bukhtiyar, his officers immediately chose one of their own number as Governor, and he took the title of King. The Emperor of Delhi, hearing of this, sent an army which conquered the country, and Aly Merdan was appointed Soobadar. Soon after, Kootub-ood-deen, the emperor of Delhi died, and Aly Merdan made himself independent. But as he became very arrogant, the Khilijy chiefs assassinated him, and made Gyas-ood-deeen, governor. He kept his

court at Gour, and adorned the city with many noble buildings. He was a great benefactor to the country. He erected a causway or *bund* from Nagore, the capital of Beerbhoom, to Debcote, east of Gour. He was impartial in his decisions; and made no distinction between Hindus and Mahomedans. He was also very powerful; he made the Rajahs of Assam, Tirhoot, and Tipperah pay tribute. Thus he reigned happily ten years; but at length he revolted against the emperor, who sent an army and defeated him. He died on the field of battle, in 1227.

In the next ten years there were three other governors, and then Toghan Khan was appointed Soobadar, in 1237. Six years after, he marched into Orissa, and fought a battle with the Hindoos. They defeated him, and pursued him to his capital, Gour, which place, as well as Nagore, in Beerbhoom they besieged. Toghan Khan was so pressed by them that he sought the aid of the emperor, who sent Timur Khan to his assistance with an army. But Timur was so much pleased with Bengal, that he determined to keep it himself; and hence, a battle ensued between him and Toghan. Toghan was defeated; but was allowed to leave the country with all his property. Soon after, he was made Soobadar of Oudh. Timur governed Bengal two years.

In 1253 Mullik Yuzbek was appointed governor. Hearing that the Emperor at Delhi was very weak, he declared himself independent; and soon after marched into Assam but was entirely defeated, and died of his wounds. This was the second time the Mahomedans had invaded Assam, and returned in disgrace. On the death of Mullik, Jelal was sent from Delhi to govern Bengal. While he

was employed in subduing some independent Hindu Rajahs, the governor of Kurrah came down and took and plundered Gour. Jelal was killed in action, and his opponent was made Soobadar of Bengal through the presents which he sent to Delhi.

In 1277 Addeen Togrul became governor of this country. He entered Tipperah, plundered it of much wealth, and of a hundred elephants. Having heard that Balin, his master at Delhi, was dead, he proclaimed himself King of Bengal. The Emperor, however was not dead, though he was very old. He sent two armies, one after the other, to subdue this rebel, but both were defeated. Enraged at this he collected his forces, and marched in person against the Soobadar. Togrul fled with all his wealth and troops into Orissa. The Emperor pursued him and encamped for some days near him. One day, Mahomed Shah, a brave general in the Emperor's army, advanced with forty horsemen into the camp of the rebel. He at once entered the tent of Togrul, and shouting 'victory to King Balin.' put every one he met to the sword. The rebel Soobadar fled alone to the river. Mahomed followed him close, engaged him in the stream, and cut off his head. As soon as his troops heard of this they fled. The Emperor obtained much plunder and returned to Gour, and, in 1282, made his own son, Nazir-ood-deen, Governor of Bengal. Four years after this KeiKobad, the son of Nazir, became Emperor of Delhi, but gave himself up to amusement. His father wrote him a letter, and begged him to attend to business, and give up pleasure ; but this had no effect. He, therefore marched towards Delhi with an army ; and KeiKobad marched out to meet him. While the two armies

lay in sight of each other, the father begged to have an interview with his son. KeiKobad agreed to this ; but by the advice of his wicked minister, ordered that his father, in approaching the throne, should prostrate himself three times. As the old man enterd his presence, and bent himself to the ground, his son, unable to bear the sight, leaped from the throne, and falling on his father's neck, wept. A reconciliation now took place ; Nazir-ood-deen spent many days with his son, and gave him much good advice ; but when the son returned to the pleasures of Delhi, he forgot it all ; and was soon after assassinated by his own minister. During these troubles Nazir-ood-deen remained independent in Bengal.

In the year 1293 a new dynasty ascended the throne of Delhi. The great Alla-ood deen became Emperor, and determined to conquer the Deccan. Nazir made his humble submissions to the Emperor, but as he dreaded the violence of his temper, he resigned his government. He was however confirmed in the government of Gour, and the districts near it. Alla-ood-deen divided Bengal into two parts ; and made Bahadoor Khan the Governor of the south eastern part. He fixed his seat at the ancient capital of Sonargong. In a few years Bahadoor became very tyranical,and made himself independent. Mahomed Togluk,who had become the Emperor of Delhi, marched against him. On the Emperor's march to Sonargong,old Nazir-ood-deen met him with presents, and was confirmed as governor of Gour. He died in 1325, after having governed this province forty-three years Bahadoor, not able to resist the Emperor, submitted to him. He was pardoned on condition of giving up all his treasures. For fifteen years after

this, Bengal continued under two governors ; but when Mahomed Togluk, the Emperor, had become hateful to all his subjects, one Fukeer-ood-deen the armour bearer of the governor of Sonargong having gained over the troops, made himself master of Bengal. He struck the coin and read the khootba in his own name; the emperor was too weak to subdue him. He fixed his residence at Sonargong. Soon after, coveting the whole country he marched against Gour, but was taken prisoner and put to death, after a reign of two years. Fukeer-ood-deen was succeeded by one Mobarik-Aly ; but at the end of seventeen months he was assassinated by Shums-ood-deen, who took possession of the whole kingdom. He was, in fact, the first independent Mahomedan King of Bengal. Thus this province which had been conquered in 1203 by the Mahomedans, remained subject to Delhi, a hundred and forty years, and then became independent. And it remained under its own independent Mahomedan Kings from the year 1343 to 1576, for a period of two hundred and thirty-three years, till it was subdued by the Mogul Emperor of Delhi, the great Akbar. It then became a soobah of the Empire.

SECTION II.

As soon as Shums-ood-deen was firm in his throne, he marched against the King of Tipperah, and plundered him of money and elephants. Shums-ood-deen removed the seat of government from Sonargong to Peruya, not far from Gour. Ten years after his accession, he made war on the imperial Governor of Behar. The emperor of Delhi, Feroze, determined to punish him and to

reconquer Bengal, and came down with an army. Shum-sood-deen left his son to defend Peruya, and himself returned to Sonargong ; Peruya was easily taken. The Emperor then marched against Akdala, a large fort near Sonargong, in which the King of Bengal had shut himself up ; but he was unable to take it ; and as the rains had set in, he made peace and returned to Delhi. In the year 1357, the King of Bengal sent presents to Delhi, and the Emperor, seeing he could not conquer that province, acknowleged its independence and also fixed its limits. Shums-ood-deen after this lived without anxiety, and built Hazeepore, opposite to Patna, now famous for its fair. After he had governed Bengal sixteen years, his son Sekundar ascended the throne in the year 1358.

When the Emperor heard that Shums-ood-deen was dead, he got together an army and marched into Bengal. Sekunder, after his father's example, shut himself up in Akdalla. The Emperor's troops besieged it, but when the rains set in, they were obliged to give up their designs ; and the Emperor, on receiving present of elephants, withdrew. In 1361 Sekunder erected the great Adina mosque, near Peruya. He was killed by his son, Gyas-ood-deen, who ascended the throne, and governed the country with great justice for six years. The king died in 1373, and his son, and then his grandson, mounted the throne. The latter was dethroned by Ganesh, a Hindu, the chief of Betouria. Here then we have a Hindu on the throne again. He was so much beloved by all his subjects, that after his death the Moosulmans demanded his body to bury it, and the Hindus claimed it to burn. His son Cheitmul succeeded him, but forsook the Hindu

religion. He removed the Court from Peruya to Gour, and adorned that city with buildings beyond all his predecessors. The magnificent mosque, the baths, the reservoir, the caravanserai, usually called Jellaly, were built by his orders. He Governed with great equity, and died in 1409, and was succeeded by his son Ahmed Shah. A little before this time, the great Timur, or Tamerlane, came with an immense army of Moguls accross the Indus. He conquered Delhi, put many thousands to death, and proclaimed himself Emperor. But after he had been in India a year, he quitted it and never returned. In consequence of the irruption of Timur, the empire of Delhi fell to pieces. One governor after another declared himself independent. Malwa, Goozerat,Khandesh and Juanpore, each became separate kingdoms. Of these new kingdoms, that of Juanpore lay nearest to Bengal, and its king Ibrahim invaded that country, and took away many prisoners. Ahmed Shah, the King, unable to cope with him sent a letter to Shah Roch, the grandson of Timur, at Herat, to beg his protection. He immediately wrote to Ibrahim to say, that if he did not desist, he would come and separate his soul from his body. After this we hear no more of Ibrahim's invasion of Bengal. Ahmed died in 1426,leaving no son; with him this brief Hindu dynasty came to an end. It gained the throne by accident; and it did nothing to restore the Hindu faith, for the second Prince became a Mahomedan, and even caused many of his Hindu subjects to embrace that religion.

The Mahomedan nobles now raised Nazir shah to the throne in 1426. He reigned thirty-one years, but nothing is remembered of him,

except that he built the fortifications round Gour, and erected its splendid gates. He was succeeded by his son Barbeck Shah. He was the first to introduce Abyssinian and Negro slaves into his court, who did great mischief to the realm. He reigned seventeen years; his son seven years, the latter dying without issue, the nobles raised Futteh Shah to the throne. The Abyssinians had now become very insolent and powerful; and as the king endeavoured to restrain them, they put him to death. The chief eunuch then became king, and took the name of Sultan Shah Zada. In eight months, he was assassinated by Mulk Andiel, an Abyssinian, his general in chief, a man of very great abilities, who himself now became sovereign of Bengal. He added new buildings to the city of Gour; but both his reign and that of his son did not exceed four years. To the latter succeeded Muzuffir Shah, a great tyrant, who became odious to the people. His vizier, Hussein Shah, Sheriff of Mecca, rebelled and beseiged him in his capital. The king marched out and gave him battle; twenty thousand were slain in the field before Gour; and among them was the king himself.

Syed Hussein Shah ascended the throne of Bengal in 1489. He was without doubt the most powerful among all the sovereigns of Bengal. On ascending the throne he determined to reform the government.

Having put the government in order, he ruled with great justice for twenty-four years. He greatly encouraged the learned. He overran Orissa, and also that part of Assam which lies nearest to Bengal. During his reign, Hoosung, the last of the independent kings of Jaun-

pore, was driven from his kingdom. He sought refuge in Bengal, where the king settled a princely pension on him. The emperor of Delhi, pursuing Hoosung came to the borders of Bengal; but a treaty of peace was concluded between him and the king. By this agreement, Behar, Tirhoot and Sircar Sarun, were ceded to the Emperor, provided he did not invade Bengal. Hussein died in 1520. He was succeeded by his son, Nusserit Shah. It was in his reign that Sultan Baber came down from Cabul and conquered Delhi, and in 1526 established the empire of the Moguls in India. Nusserit made conquest in Behar, and aided the dethroned Emperor of Delhi, Mahmood Lody. Upon this Baber marched against him, but the king prudently made his submissions. He was assassinated by the eunuchs of his palace, whom he had treated cruelly. He erected that noble building, the great golden mosque, called the *sonna musjid*, at Gour. His son Mahomed Shah, ascended the throne, but was defeated and dethroned by the celebrated Shere Shah.

Shere Shah was the greatest man among the Mahomedans, who had yet appeared in Bengal. He was an Affgan. Just at this time the great Baber became emperor of Delhi. Shere repaired to his court, and was introduced to him; and by his talents and contrivance obtained the government of Behar. At this time, Mahmood, the son of the deposed emperor, Sekunder Lody, came to Behar, and was made king of that country by the nobles. Shere had not power to oppose him, and therefore marched under his standard to fight Humayoon, the son of Baber, the Emperor of Delhi.

When the armies came to engage, Shere went over to the Moguls, and thus gave them the victory. Soon after Humayoon being called to Guzerat, Shere took possession of Behar, and prepared to march against Bengal. The king alarmed beyond measure, sent to the Portugueze at Goa, in the year 1537, to come and assist him, and the Portugueze Governor General sent a fleet of nine ships to his aid; but they came too late. This was the first time in which the Christians had appeared in bengal with arms in their hands. On the approach of Shere, Mahomed, the king of Bengal, shut himself up in Gour; but when provisions became scarce, he embarked on board a boat and fled at first to Hazeepore, and from thence to Chunar, where Humayoon lay with his army. Gour opened its gates to Shere ; but Humayoon advanced against him, and he was obliged to retire to Sasseram. It was at this time, that he obtained possession of Rhotas by artifice. This place was situated on a high mountain, which overlook the Soane, and was reckoned one of the strongest forts in India. While Shere was making himself strong in Rhotas, Humayoon spent three months in rioting at Gour. The rains now set in, and he found it necessary to return to Delhi. Shere posted his army on the route through which the Emperor must return on the banks of the Karumnassa ; and arrested his progress. For three months the imperial army lay idle in the cape, not able either to advance or to go back. Humayoon, at length sent to say that if Shere would let him pass, he would give up Bengal and Behar to him. Shere agreed to this, and swore on the Koran that he would not injure the Moguls. That very night while they were mak-

ing merry in their camp, Shere crossed over, and put eight thousand of them to death. The Emperor escaped with a few friends. This event happened in 1539. Shere immediately hastened to Gour, and the day after his arrival assumed the power and the title of king of Bengal and Behar. After spending a year in arranging the Government, he marched with 50,000 Affghans to attack the Emperor. A battle was fought near Kanouj; Humayoon was defeated, and Shere became Shere Shah, Emperor of Delhi.

From the field of battle he returned to Bengal and divided it into districts. He settled the kingdom so admirably, that it enjoyed peace during his reign. In 1541, he proceeded to Agra, and mounted the imperial throne. In 1545 he was killed by the bursting of a shell. He left many glorious monuments. From Sonargong in Bengal to the Banks of the Indus, a distance of 2,000 miles, he built caravanserais at every stage, and sunk a well at the distance of every *coss* for the benefit of the public. He ordered that at every stage, all travellers, without distinction, should be entertained at his expense. He also adorned the road with rows of trees. He was the first, who ever employed a mounted post in India. During his reign highway robberies were unknown. He lies buried in a magnificent tomb at Sasseram, in the middle of an artificial lake, a mile square.

Between the death of Shere Shah in 1535, and the conquest of Bengal by the Moguls, in 1576, during thirty one years, four monarchs filled the throne. Selim, the son of Shere, appointed one of his own relatives, Mahomed Khan Shoor, his deputy in Bengal. He continued faithful till the

death of his master, when he rendered himself independent, and made some conquests in the district of Juanpore; but in 1555 he was defeated by the Imperial general. Bahadur Shah, his son, succeeded him; and the year after his accession, marched against the Emperor of Delhi, who was defeated and slain in a battle fought at Monghyr. This confirmed Bahadur in the Government of Bengal and Behar, and he governed those provinces in peace till the year 1560, when he died and was succeeded by his brother, who at the end of three years, died at Gour. His son, a youth, was raised to the throne, but was assassinated immediately after. Soliman, an illustrious Affghan, of the tribe of Karsani then seized upon the throne in 1564. Soon after, he despatched an agent with valuable presents to the Emperor Akber, with assurances of respect and attachment. This wise measure secured the peace of Bengal, and enabled Soliman to extend his conquests.

The powerful kings of Orissa had previously to this time extended their conquests in Bengal; and hence the Ooriyas boast that their kingdom once extended to Trivance on the Bhagirathi. In the year 1550, Telinga Mukund Deb, ascended the throne of Orissa. He was the last independent king of that country, he is described as a man of great courage and abilities. Soliman, the king of Bengal sent his general, the terrific Kala-pahar, into Orissa. He was by birth a Brahman; but one of the princesses of Gour having become enamoured of him, he turned Mahomedan and married her and then became the most ruthless persecutor of the Hindus to be found in history. He entered Orissa with an army of Affghan horse on the part of his master, defeated the rajah, and

at once destroyed the independence of the country. Kalapahar was determined to leave no vestige of Hinduism in Orissa. He persecuted the Brahmans with great fury, pulled down the temples, and destroyed the images. Above all, his rage was directed against the image of Jugunnath. He carried it off in an elephant as far as the Ganges. Before his departure he broke every image at Pooree. On the banks of the Ganges he collected a large pile of wood, set it on fire, and cast the god in; but a by-stander snatched the image from the flame, and threw it into the river. A faithful votary of Jugunnath watched the half burnt image as it floated down the stream, and when unperceived, took it up, and extracting from it the sacred part (the spirit) carried it carefully into Orissa. Thus fell the independence of this country which had so long been governed by the royal races of Gaja patee, and Ganga-bangsa. Twenty one years of anarchy followed the conquest of Kalapahar, after which the Ooryas placed upon the throne the ancestor of the present rajah of Khoorda. But the Mahomedans had now full possession of the country, and the rajah dwindled into a Zemindar.

Soliman died in 1573. He determined to try his strength with the Emperor, and began by attacking the nearest imperial garrison. Akber hearing of this, sent Monaim Khan, the viceroy of Juanpore, with an army into Bengal and Behar. The Rajah Todermul, a Hindoo, was the chief general under him. Daood Khan had posted himself at Patna. The emperor's generals besieged it, and Akbar himself also joined the camp and attacked Hazeepore, because he found that

it supplied that city with provisions. Hazeepore was taken; and its defenders were put to death. The Governor also was slain, and his head, together with those of the slaughtered troops, was put into a boat and sent to Daood Khan to terryfy him. He did indeed take fright and fled with his troops and his treasure to Orissa; there a very fierce battle was fought between the Moguls of Akbar and the Affghans of Daood. The Moguls were victorious. Daood retired to Kattack, and seeing no hope of success, begged the mercy of the Emperor. It was granted, and he came into the Mogul camp, and signed and sealed a promise that he would never again oppose Akbar. On these terms he was allowed to keep his estates in Orissa.

Monaim Khan returned with the Emperor's troops to Gour, and determined to make that city his residence. But a pestilence broke out in 1575, from a cause which was not discovered. The Governor, was carried off by the plague. The city was at once depopulated, and from that day to this, it has been abandoned. At the time of its destruction it had existed two thousand years. It was the most magnificent city in India, of immense extent, and filled with the noblest buildings. It was the capital of a hundred kings; the seat of wealth and luxury. In one year it was humbled to the dust, and now it is the abode only of tigers and monkies. A few of the strongest edifices of stone and marble remain, but all the brick buildings have been taken down, and the materials employed in building Moorshedabad. It was at the time in which Bengal became again a part of the Empire of the Moguls, that its ancient and noble capital became a desert.

On the death of Moniam Khan, Bengal fell into disorder. Daood Khan broke his oath, took up arms, and drove the Moguls from Bengal. He assembled an army of 50,000 horse, and took post at Rajmahal. The troops of Akbar were soon collected from.all parts, and laid seige to it. The Affghans defended themselves with courage; but their best generals fell one by one; so they lost heart, and fled. Daood himself fell into the hands of the Mogul general, who cut of his head, and sent it to Akbar. On the death of Daood, the line of independent kings of Bengal became extinct, after having ruled the country for two hundred and thirty-six years. With Daood, the power of the Affghans ended. For more than three hundred and fifty years they had been all powerful in Bengal; that is to say, from the first year in which Bukhtiyar Khilijy first conquered it till the year in which the Mogul reconquered it. In 1576 Bengal and Behar became a part of the Mogul Empire.

During the four centuries in which the Affghans held Bengal, the government is said to have been thus conducted. The king or the viceroy chose certain districts for his own domain. The other districts and estates which had been taken from the Hindoos, were given tohis officers; who divided the land among their dependents. From the revenue which these officers received, they were obliged to keep up a certain number of troops. They were allowed a portion of the rent for their own support; the remainder they remitted to the royal treasury. The Hindoo landholders were deprived of their lands, and suffered much poverty and pain; but they were often employed to manage the estates of Affghans.

The Mogul Dynasty.

After the victory over Daood Khan at Rajmahal, the Emperor's general subdued Behar, and took the strong fort of Rhotas. A force was also sent into Orissa, it was to seize the property of the late king, and the Rajah of Cooch Behar was compelled to pay tribute. But great disturbances soon broke out. The Mogul officers had driven out the Affghans, and taken possession of their estates. Akbar wished to introduce a better system of collecting the revenues; to this the Moguls would not submit. At once, thirty thousands of Akbar's own Mogul cavalry appeared in the field in rebellion against him, and seized on the capital of Bengal. The same cause, led the Moguls in Behar to rise in arms and take possession of the country; and thus in 1580 the whole of Bengal and Behar was again torn from the empire. The throne of Akbar was shaken by this revolt. In this dilemma, he selected a Hindoo, the Rajah Torelmul to command his armies, and sent him with a body of Hindu Rajpoot troops to reconquer the revolted provinces. The Rajah acted with great spirit.

But the Mahomedan officers under the Rajah were ill affected to him; and he found no little difficulty in keeping his army together. Azim Khan was appointed governor of Behar; and he endeavoured to bring back the rebels by entreaty. Failing of success he went to Agra to represent the deplorable state of affairs to Akbar. The emperor felt that the Hindu and the Mogul commanders could not act together; he therefore removed Rajah Torelmul from his office of general,

and appointed Azim Khan, governor of Bengal. The new soobadar, by sowing jealousies among the rebels, was enabled to reduce them one by one, and by the year 1582 the whole country was subdued and peace restored.

It is supposed that the Rajah Torelmul, after being removed from the command of the army, was placed over the treasury. He is often called the Dewan Torelmul. It was he who in the year 1582, made a new arrangement of all the zemindarees of Bengal, and drew up a rent roll. The first revenue settlement of Bengal under the Moguls was made by this Hindu Rajah, and it continued in force for many years. It was called the *Ausil Toomar Jumma* of all the jaygeer and khalsa lands of Bengal, and it shewed a revenue from this province alone of one crore and about seven lakhs of Rupees.

Though Bengal had been subdued, it was not tranquil. The Affghans in Orissa repeatedly revolted, and in 1589 Akbar appointed Man Sing, the celebrated Rajpoot, whose sister had been married to Prince Selim, afterwards the Emperor Jehangire, governor of this soobah, and also of Behar. Having assumed the Government, he marched against the Affghans. Kuttulu Khan, their chief, died about this time; they became dispirited and sued for peace; Man-Sing lost no time in marching into the province; a battle was fought on the banks of the Suvarnarekha; the Affghans were totally defeated and again sued for peace. It was granted them on condition that they should give up all their elephants and pay up the revenues. Man Sing, returning from Orissa, made Rajmahal his capital. The next year the Affghans revolted a third time in Orissa,

and brought up an army against Satgong, which was still the great port of Bengal. This wealthy place they plundered; but when the emperor's troops advanced against them, they made their submission. In the year 1595, the Rajah of Cooch Behar professed himself the vassal of the emperor.

In 1598, Akbar undertook an expedition into the Deccan and ordered Man Sing to attend him. Osman, now the chief of the Orissa Affghans, no sooner heard of this, than he appeared in the field again. He defeated the emperor's troops, and conquered the greater part of Bengal. Man Sing hastened back, met the enemy at Sherepur, and routed them. Man Sing had now governed Bengal with great justice and prudence for fifteen years, and in 1604 asked leave to resign his post. The next year, his master, the great Akbar, died, and Jehangire ascended the throne. Man Sing was at this time the most powerful subject in the empire. The new emperor stood in awe of him; though his own brother-in-law, to prevent danger, removed him from court and sent him into Bengal.

Jehangire wanted to destroy the renowned Shere Khan, and Man Sing would not assist him. Kootub-ood-deen was therefore appointed governor of Bengal. The wife of Shere. Mehr-ul-Nissa was the most beautiful woman of that age in India. He applied to his father Akbar to break off the match, that he might espouse her, but the emperor refused to do an act of injustice even for his own son. Shere, finding that he was not safe at the court, retired with his wife to Bengal, and was appointed chief of Burdwan. Akbar at length died and Jehangire became Lord of India. Kootub

was sent as soobadar to Bengal to procure the death of Shere. He advanced to Burdawn. Shere saw that it was his life they wanted, and he determined to die like a brave man. His widow bore his death with great fortitude, and soon after became the wife of Jehangire. With him she ruled the Empire of India for many years, under the well known title of Noor Jehan.

In 1608 Sheikh Islam Khan was appointed governor of Bengal, and immediately removed the seat of Government to the south, and built the city of Dacca. The cause of this movement was the distress which the Portugueze pirates inflicted on the coasts of Bengal. The Portugueze were the first Europeans who came to India by sea for the purposes of trade. In the year 1496, the Portugueze Admiral Vasco de Gama, for the first time, sailed round the Cape of Good Hope, and landed at Calicut, a city on the western coast of India. The Portugueze finding the trade profitable, sent out ship after ship; and at length obtained land and built forts. Their power and their trade gave them much consideration in the country. At that time the royal port of Satgong was in its glory; it was the great emporium of the trade of Bengal. The Portugueze naturally settled near it, at a place which was called Golin, or Gola, —the warehouse. This place increased by the trade of the foreigners, and was afterwards called Hooghly.

A number of Portugueze adventurers, about the year 1600, also settled on the coast of Chittagong, and Arracan, and entered into the service of the native princes. They were well acquainted with maritime affairs, exceedingly brave; and hence became very troublesome neighbours. In

1607, the King of Arracan determined to root them out of his dominions; and put many to death; the rest escaped in nine or ten small vessels to the island of Sundeep, and turned pirates. The Mogul governor seized upon all the Portugueze within his reach, and having put them to death, went in search of the pirates. They were anchored off Dukhin Shabazpore. A naval battle ensued, the Moguls were entirely defeated. The Portugueze returned in triumph to Sundeep and chose Gonzales for their captain, who attacked and beat the Mogul troops, and in revenge put a thousand of them to death. Gonzales suddenly became a mighty prince. He had a thousand European and two thousand native troops under him, besides two hundred cavalry and eighty ships. He took possession of all the islands at the mouth of the Padma; the chiefs around sought his friendship. The king of Arracan made a league with him in 1610, and they agreed to invade Bengal together by land and by water. Their united forces attacked and took Bhoolooa and Luckipore; but a strong Mogul army marched against them, and totally defeated the Arracan troops. The Portugueze had neglected to guard the coast with their gun boats and were pursued to Chittagong. It was in consequence of these troubles that the soobadar of Bengal removed the seat of Government to Dacca, that he might be ready to repel the invaders. By the defeat of the Arracanese and vigilance of the soobadar, peace was restored to the eastern provinces, but a disturbance immediately broke out in the west. The ever turbulent Affghans in Orissa under Osman, the son of their former chief, determined to invade Bengal again. The Moguls advanced as far as

the banks of the Suvarnarekha, where a battle was fought. It was very obstinately disputed ; but at length the Affghans were totally overthrown. This happened in the year 1611, and it may be considered as their last effort to recover Bengal. The Affghans after this, settled peaceably in the principal villages of the district, and their descendants, who are still numerous, pass under the name of Pathans.

Immediately after the Portugueze and Arracanese had been defeated by the soobadar, Gonzales wrote to the governor of Portugueze India, who resided at Goa, and told him that it would be easy to conquer Arracan. He immediately fitted out a large fleet, and sent it to the Arracan coast, attacked the city of Arracan, but were repulsed. The Rajah of Arracan pursued him with a powerful fleet and army, took Sundeep and all the neighbouring coasts, ravaged the country far and near, burnt the towns and villages and carried the inhabitants into slavery. It is supposed with good reason, that it was this and succeeding inroads of the Arracanese which created the Soonderbuns. That region was formerly the residence of wealthy and industrious people.

In 1618, Ibrahim Khan, who was married to a sister of the empress Noor Jehan, was appointed Governor of Bengal. It was during his viceroyalty that the English first began to trade in these provinces.

In the year 1600, Elizabeth, the Queen of England, granted a charter to a company of merchants in London to enable them to trade to the East. This was the origin of the East India Company, who now govern the empire of India. Their attention was at first drawn to Surat, where they

established a factory. From Surat they proceeded, for the purposes of trade to Agra, then the residence of the emperor; and hearing that Behar possessed many valuable articles of commerce, they sent two factors to Patna, in the year 1620. The goods which they purchased were sent up the stream to Agra, and from thence transported by land to Surat, and shipped to England. But the expense of carriage was found to be great, that this scheme of trade was soon abandoned.

During the first five years of Ibrahim's rule, Bengal enjoyed peace and prosperity. The Assamese had been repelled, and the Arracanese driven off. The Affghans in Orissa had been completely subdued. Trade began to flourish anew; the delicate muslins of Dacca and the silks of Muldah were brought to perfection. Just at this juncture, an event happened which again plunged this unfortunate country into misery. Shah Jehan, the third son of the emperor broke out into open rebellion, and marching towards Delhi, made some insolent demands of his father. Jehangire marched out to meet him; a battle ensued in which Shah Jehan was defeated and obliged to fly back to the Deccan. His elder brother pursued him to the Nerbudda, when he suddenly turned off and marching into Bengal, through Orissa, arrived at Burdwan. Shah Jehan overran Bengal, and advanced to Rajmahal. Ibrahim khan, the Soobadar, followed him, and a severe engagement was fought in which Ibrahim was defeated and slain. The victor then proceeded to Dacca, took forty lakhs of Rupees from the treasury, and after regulating the affairs of the country, marched towards Delhi. He successively took Monghyr, Patna, and Rhotas, to which latter place he sent his family for securi-

ty. He then proceeded to Benares, and hearing that the imperial army was approaching to give him battle, encamped his troops on the banks of the Tonse. The battle which ensued was very bloody. Shah Jehan was completely defeated, and pursued from place to place, till he fled back into the Deccan by the same route by which he had entered Bengal. There he wrote a penitential letter to his father, and was forgiven. No trace remained of his having been in possession of Bengal for two years.

After the suppression of Shah Jehan's rebellion, Khanezad khan was appointed soobadar. The expenses occasioned by the irruption of the Arracanese and Portugueze, and by the revolt of the prince, had swallowed up all the revenue. So unprofitable indeed had Bengal become, that in 1627 Fedai Khan was set as soodadar because he promised to remit annually the sum of five lakhs of Rupees in money to the Emperor, and the same sum to the Empress.

Early in 1628, Jehangire died and Shah Jehan became Emperor. He immediately sent Cossim Khan as his viceroy into Bengal, and ordered the soobadar te expel the Portugueze from his dominions.

Cossim Khan began his preparations for attacking the Portugueze. In 1632, the imperial armies invested the city of Hooghly in all directions; the siege lasted three months. One thousand Portugueze fell in the siege, and four thousand four hundred men, women, and children became captives. Hooghly having thus fallen into the hands of the Moguls, was made the royal port of Bengal. All the public offices and records were removed from Satgong, and that place, after fifteen hun-

dred years of prosperity, sank down to the condition of a miserable village. A fouzdar, or military commander, was appointed to Hooghly. The soobadar, Cossim Khan, died in the same year.

Two years after the fall of Hooghly, the English obtained an imperial firman to trade to Bengal by sea. It was acquired through the generosity of Mr, Boughton. In 1634, while the Emperor, Shah Jehan, was encamped in the Deccan, one of his daughters was severely burnt, by her clothes taking fire. An express was sent to the English factory at Surat, to desire the assistance of an English surgeon. Mr. Boughton, the surgeon of one of the Company's ships, was sent, and he was so happy as to effect a complete cure. The grateful Emperor desired him only to name his reward and he should receive it. Instead of asking any thing for himself, he begged that the English nation might have permission to trade in Bengal, free of duty, and to establish factories in that country; which was immediately granted. But as the Emperor had seen in the case of the Portugueze, how dangerous it was to allow Europeans to settle within the country, he fixed upon Piply, near Balasore, for the English factory. There, in the year 1634, the English, who now govern the vast empire of India, anchored their first ship. Mr. Boughton, who had come across the country with the firman, negotiated the purchase of a cargo without difficulty. Four years after the establishment of the English at Piply, the Dutch also obtained permission to establish their first factory there.

In 1638, Islam Khan Mushmedy, an old and experienced officer, succeeded to the viceroyalty

of Bengal. In the first year of his government, Mukut Roy who held Chittagong for the Rajah of Arracan rebelled against his master, and delivered it up to the Moguls. Meanwhile, the rajah of Assam embarked five hundred boats on the Bramhapootra, and came down like a torrent on Bengal, plundering every town and village in his way. The soobadar went out to meet him with his war boats armed with cannon. The Assamese could not withstand him. Islam Khan pursued them into their own country, and took fifteen forts and much spoil. It was also under his viceroyalty, which lasted but one year, that Cooch Behar was invaded by the Mahomedans.

Sultan Shah Soojah.

In the year 1639, Sultan Soojah, the second son of the Emperor Shah Jehan, was appointed to govern Bengal, at the age of twenty-four years; and he ruled it with great wisdom for nearly twenty years. Behar, by way of precaution was made a separate government. The first step of Soojah was to remove the capital from Dacca to Rajmahal, which he adorned with splendid buildings.

After Soojah's arrival at Rajmahal, Mr. Boughton went to pay his respects to him. It happened that one of the ladies in the seraglio was afflicted with a severe disease. The fame of Mr. Boughton had spread widely through India, and he was solicited to prescribe for her. In this case also he was successful. He became a great favourite at the court, and the viceroy, as a token of gratitude gave the English, through him, permission to establish factories at Balasore and Hooghly, as well as at Piply. After Soojah had governed

Bengal with great credit for eight years, he was recalled through the jealousies and fears of his father, and made governor of Cabul. Within two years, however, he was restored to the government of Bengal, and ruled it for nine years; during which period the country enjoyed unusual prosperity. Its manufactures were improved; and its commerce extended. The trade of the Europeans brought a large influx of gold and silver. The court of Rajmahal vied with that of Delhi in magnificence. Justice was rigorously executed; and the soobadar won the affections of the people by his affability and moderation. Nine such years of peace and prosperity, the country had not experienced for centuries.

A new rent roll of the revenues of the country was drawn by Shah Soojah, about the year 1657. We have already stated that the first assessment, under the Mogul dynasty, was made in 1582, by the Dewan Torelmul, and that it amounted to one crore and seven lakhs of Rupees. But great additions were made to the revenue in succeeding years so that the new rent roll of Shah Soojah amounted to a crore and thirty-one lakhs of Rupees. This improvement arose partly from the good government of the soobadar, but more particularly from the trade of the English and the Dutch.

In 1657 Shah Jehan, the Emperor of Delhi, the father of Shah Soojah, fell dangerously ill, and each of his four sons began to aspire to the throne. Soojah determined to make an effort to obtain the throne himself. His resources were great; his troops numerous and valiant; his treasury was full; and he enjoyed the affections of his people. He marched with his army to Benares.

His eldest brother Dara despatched his son Soliman with the Rajpoot general Jye-sing to encounter him.

Soliman crossed his army during the night by a ford which he had discovered, and fell upon Soojah, who was awaked by the clashing of armour. Sooja was obliged to fly, first to Patna, and from thence to Monghyr. Soliman hastened to besiege this place; but his father was constrained to recall him with his army to fight his two uncles, Morad and Aurungzebe. Dara was defeated; the old Fmperor, Shah Jehan, was thrown into confinement, and Aurungzebe mounted the throne of Delhi.

Shah Soojah was thunder struck when he heard that Aurungzebe had obtained possession of the empire, for he knew him to be implacable. He therefore determined to make another struggle for the imperial throne, and in 1696 assembled a large army and marched into Hindustan. The army of Soojah met that of the Emperor at Kudgwa. A large body of Aurungzebe's troops deserted to his brother the night before the battle; and if Soojah had been any thing of a general, the victory would have been his own. Here a furious engagement ensued. His elephant became untractable; and in an evil hour, he descended from it, and mounted his horse. His soldiers having lost sight of their master now fled in all directions, and Soojah returned without attendants to Patna, and from thence proceeded to Monghyr. Aurungzebe sent his own son, Mahomed, with his general, Meer Joomla, to pursue him, with order not to desist till he was taken. They laid seige to Monghyr. Soojah's troops had by this time rejoined him, and he strengthened the fortifications

of that town, so that the siege was protracted. But Meer Joomla having heard that there was another way into Bengal by the mountains of Sheergotty, sent an army in that direction, which suddenly burst upon the plains.

As soon as Soojah heard of this circumstance, he abandoned his fortifications and retreated to Rajmahal, where he defended himself for six days. But at length, taking advantage of a dark and stormy night, he embarked his army on his boats, crossed the river and moved to Tondah. That same night the rains set in, and Meer Joomla found it necessary to encamp his army for the season in the vicinity of Rajmahal. During this time Soojah augmented his troops, took some European artillery men into his pay, and began to entertain hopes of success. Mahomed, the son of the Emperor, who had been smitten with the charms of Soojah's daughter, suddenly left his own army and joined him. Soojah was overjoyed at the arrival of Mahomed. The nuptials of that prince were celebrated with splendour, and the court was filled with rejoicings. But Meer Joomla had now, through the decrease of the river, discovered a ford at Sooty, where he crossed his army over and approached Tondah. Soojah unwisely determined to come out and risk a battle. He was completely defeated. His affairs were now entirely ruined; he and his son-in-law fled to Dacca, and Tondah opened its gates to the victor. Meer Joomla set himself first to settle the affairs of the country, and then marched to Dacca, where Soojah could scarcely muster 1500 men. He was now completely disgusted with the world, and determined to proceed to Mecca, and to pass the rest of his life in devotions at that shrine.

Having placed his family and effects on elephants, he marched through the country of Tipperah with only forty domestics, and arrived at Chittagong. There he found that there was no vessel bound to Mecca, and that the state of the weather would not allow any vessel to put to sea. His enemies were now pressing upon him, and he had but one resource left him of seeking a refuge in Arracan. He sent forward an envoy to announce his approach; and the rajah sent him assurance of friendship. But the rajah soon after began to treat him coldly, and at length sent to demand his daughter in marriage. Soojah was inflamed at the request; and sent a haughty reply, to the effect that he would not disgrace the blood of Timur by a marriage with an infidel. The rajah now sent his troops to attack the unfortunate prince, who defended himself to the last with great bravery. After the greater part of his followers had been slaughtered, Soojah himself was stunned with a huge stone, which was rolled down on him. He was instantly seized, disarmed and bound; and then placed in a little canoe, which was rowed into the middle of the stream. There the boatmen pulled out the plugs, and the boat and Soojah sunk together; the men were taken up by another vessel. The rajah visited the wife of Soojah, the beautiful Pearee Banoo, but she plunged a dagger into her bosom to prevent her dishonour, and expired. Two of her daughters fell also by their own hand; the youngest was forcibly married to the rajah, but pined away and died; his two sons were drowned. Thus perished the unfortunate Soojah, root and branch, a prince more beloved in Bengal than any Mahomedan ruler had ever been. When the old Em-

peror, his father, then in confinement, heard of the catastrophe, he exclaimed, could not the cursed infidel have left one of Soojah to revenge the wrongs of his grandfather ?

Meer Joomla.

Having thus destroyed Shah Soojah, Meer Joomla became soobadar of Bengal. During the disorders we have described, several of the neighbouring kings began to rebel, and among others, the rajah of Cooch Behar. He seized on part of Assam and sent an army down the Bramhapootra, and plundered Dacca. In 1661 Meer Joomla marched into his country to revenge these injuries. The rajah was obliged to seek refuge in the woods; the capital was taken and the name changed to Alumgeernagar; but the change did not last. He made Cooch Behar, the mountainous district excepted, a province of Bengal and proceeded to the conquest of Assam. The soobadar advanced to Ghergong, the capital, which easily fell into his hands. The rajah fled into the mountains, and many of the chiefs swore allegiance to the Moguls. Meer Joomla therefore wrote to the Emperor, boasting that he had opened the road to China, and that he would the next year plant the Mahomedan flag on the walls of Pekin. The Emperor delighted with the idea of making his conquests equal with those of Jenghis Khan, conferred new titles on his victorious general.

The rajah sent to solicit peace, which Meer Joomla was happy to grant, and the rajah yielded up his daughter to be married to one of the Mahomedan princes, and agreed to pay an annual tribute.

Meanwhile the governor, whom the soobadar

had left in charge of Cooch Behar, oppressed the people to such a degree, that they invited their old Rajah to return and take on himself the government. The Rajah and his people fell on the Moguls and obliged them to fly. Meer Joomla returned with his army to Dacca, where he died. He was a great and able man. He reared his own fortunes. His administration was, generally speaking, just and agreeable to the people. Even the Europeans, with whom he was sometimes engaged in dispute, regretted his loss; and the Emperor, who owed to him perhaps the crown, was deeply affected on hearing of his death.

Shaista Khan.

On the death of Meer Joomla Aurungzebe appointed Shaista Khan Governor of Bengal. His administration was long; for, with the exception of three years, in which two other soobadars supplied his place, he ruled Bengal from 1662 to 1689. Shaista Khan was the nephew of the celebrated Noor Jehan.

About the time of his accession to the Government, in the beginning of 1663, the East India Company placed their factories in Bengal under the control of Madras; and directed that outfactories should be established at Balasore and Cossimbazar. The date of the first factory of Cossimbazar was 1663.

The attention of Shaista Khan was first drawn to Arracan. The king of the country, finding that the murder of Sultan Soojah had not provoken the Moguls, and hearing of Meer Joomla's misfortunes in Assam, became bold. He took into his service all the vagabond Europeans he could pick up, and with their assistance, seized the islands at the mouth of the Pudma, and plun-

dered up to the gate of Dacca. The inhabitants of that city now began to tremble at the name of the Mugs.

Shaista Khan was a man of talent and vigour. He lost no time in collecting a large fleet, and an army of 43,000 men, with which he proceeded against the Arracanese. His fleet drove them from the islands; and even Sundeep, though well defended, at length fell into his hands. He then invited the Portugueze who defended Chittagong to leave the service of Arracan, and submit to the Moguls; and threatened to root them out of India, if they refused. They had not forgotten what their nation had suffered at Hooghly, and they gladly agreed to the soobadar's terms. The able bodied were received into his army; the rest, with the women and children, were settled at a place twelve miles from Dacca, called Feringybazar; which still exists.

Shiasta Khan advanced with the land army and beseiged Chittagong. The Arracanese lost courage, and abandoned the city. The Moguls persuaded them and capturing two thousand, made slaves of them. It is said that more than twelve hundred pieces of cannon, great and small, were found in the fort, but the wealth which the Moguls expected, was not discovered. Thus were the town and district of Chittagong finally lost to the Arracanese in 1666. and annexed to the soobah of Bengal.

Shaista Khan governed the province with great success, till the year 1677, when he was appointed governor of Agra. During the first period of his government, European commerce made great progress in Bengal. Through the jealousy of the Mogul government, the English

had not been allowed to approach Hooghly with their ships. This being found to be very inconvenient, they petitioned Shaista Khan for permission to proceed in their ships at once to their factory, and he granted it. In 1664, the French, under the direction of their able minister, Colbert, formed an East India Company; and in 1672 a French fleet sailed up the Hooghly. It is to this date that we are to fix the settlement of Chandernagore. Three years after, namely, in 1675, the Dutch, who had hitherto been confined to Balasore, were allowed to establish a factory at Hooghly. But as the river soon after made encroachments upon it, they obtained a grant of the village of Chinsurah, about two miles from Hooghly. In the year 1676 the Danes came into Bengal and obtained permission to trade. Their chief factory appears to have been fixed at Balasore, though it is probable that they had liberty to trade also to Hooghli. Thus during the reign of Shaista Khan, we find that the trade of the Europeans increased and flourished more than at any preceding period.

The English had hitherto been obliged to take out a fresh Firman whenever a new viceroy was appointed. This was no small grievance; for on every such occasion they were obliged to pay a large douceur to the Mogul officers. When Shaista Khan left Bengal, the chief of the English factory sent an envoy with him to the Emperor, to solicit a perpetual Firman, or order for trade. It was obtained, but not without difficulty, and chiefly through Shaista Khan.

In 1678 Aurungzebe appointed his third son, Mahomed Azim, soobadar of Bengal. The Assamese about this time began anew to disturb

the provinces on the eastern frontier. As the soobadar advanced into Assam, the troops of the rajah retreated before him. Owing to his persecution of the Hindoos, the Emperor was now involved in a war with the chiefs of Rajpootana, and with the Mahratta chief, Sevagee. He, therefore, requested his son to join him without delay.

Shaista Khan was re-appointed governor of Bengal in 1679. His orders from Aurungzebe were to persecute the Hindoos; and, though himself of a very mild disposition, he was obliged to carry them into execution. On his arrival, he enforced the poll tax on all who professed the Hindoo religion.

At the same time many Hindoo temples were destroyed, and Roy Mullik Chand, a Hindoo of the first consideration, was thrown into irons, to extort money from him. These transactions made the government of Aurungzebe and of his deputy hateful.

The commerce of the Company in Bengal had now become very important. The court of Directors determined to make Bengal independent of Madras. In 1681, they erected it into an independent factory. Mr. Hedges was appointed the first chief; and a guard, consisting of a corporal and twenty European soldiers, was sent with him. This was the first rudiment of the British army in India. Before this time the ships for Bengal had always called at Madras to receive their orders; they now sailed directly up the Ganges; and one of the very first was armed with thirty guns.

The Company had been greatly annoyed by the intrusion of private merchants, called inter-

lopers. The chief at Hooghly was desired to ask the Nabob's permission to erect a fortification at the mouth of the river; but Shaista Khan perceived that this would give the English the command of the whole river, and he refused their request. There had been about this time several disturbances in Behar; and the company's agent at Patna was suspected of having abetted them. The Nabob represented the affair to the Emperor in such a light as greatly to inflame him against the English. The whole of their trade was thus thrown into confusion; and the ships returned with scarcely half their cargoes. The Dutch took advantage of these disputes to push their own traffic. It was at this period that they began to fortify their settlement at Chinsurah. The fort was finished in 1687, and was called Fort Gustavus. The Dutch government at this place was fully consolidated, while the English were uncertain whether they should be able to remain at all in Bengal. Subordinate to Chinsurah, the Dutch had two stations down the river; the one at Buranugur; the other at Fukah; at which latter place their ships were usually left at anchor.

The English now perceived that they must either give up the trade or resort to force. They determined upon the latter. They applied to the king of England, James the 11., who gave them permission to make war upon the Nabob of Bengal and his master, the Emperor Aurungzebe. A fleet of ten ships was sent out under Admiral Nicholson, on board of which were six hundred troops. He was ordered to embark all the Company's servants and property, to proceed to Chittagong, and to capture and fortify that

place. For this purpose two hundred guns were sent with him. He was also ordered to make an alliance with the king of Arracan, the perpetual enemy of the Moguls; to conciliate the Hindoo zemindars; to collect rents, and to establish a mint; in short, to found an Empire.

But all these projects were defeated. A storm at sea dispersed their fleet; and some of their ships were detained by contrary winds; a number, however, reached the Ganges and sailed up to Hooghly. A little before this time, the chief at Madras had sent four hundred soldiers thither. These preparations for war by sea and land alarmed the Nabob. He was anxious to make up his differences with the English. He offered to settle the claims they made by arbitration; but they demanded the enormous sum of sixty lakhs of Rupees. While these negotiations were going forward, an accident occurred, which gave a fatal turn to their affairs.

On the 28th October, 1686, three English soldiers quarrelled in the market of Hooghly with some of the Nabob's troops, and were severely beaten. A company of soldiers was sent to assist them, and then a second company; and finally, all the English troops were called out. The Nabob's soldiers, who were encamped without the town, were called in, and a general battle ensued. Sixty of the Mogul troops were killed and a number wounded. During the conflict, Admiral Nicholson began to fire from his ships on the town. As soon as the Nabob heard of these circumstances he, directed all the out-factories at Patna, Malda, Dacca, and Cossimbazar to be seized, and sent both infantry and cavalry to Hooghly to expel the English from the country.

The chief at Hooghly not thinking himself safe, on the 20th December retired with all the Company's property to the village of Chuttanutty, about four miles below the Dutch factory at Burnagur, to the spot where Calcutta now stands. Before the end of the month, three of the Nabob's ministers arrived at Hooghly, and Mr. Charnock proceeded thither to treat with them. A treaty was agreed on, by which the English were restored to their former privileges. But the Nabob's object was only to gain time that he might crush the company at once. Early in February, 1687, a large army arrived at Hooghly to expel the English. Mr. Charnock not thinking himself safe at Chuttanutty, quitted it and embarked with all his officers and goods on the ships, and sailed down to Ingelee. On his way down the river he destroyed the fort of Tanna and captured some Mogul ships.

The island of Ingelee, at the mouth of the river, was the worst situation the English could have chosen. There, however, Mr. Charnock encamped, and built fortifications. In three months half the troops died. The prospects of the English were, however, very gloomy; and it seemed as if they should be obliged to abandon Bengal, when the sun began again to shine on them. The soobadar sent an envoy with overtures of peace, which Mr. Charnock joyfully accepted. On the 16th August, 1687, treaty was concluded, by which the English were allowed to set up their factories in different parts of the country; the duty of three and a half per cent, was abolished, and Oolooberiah was given to them for magazines and docks. On his part, Mr. Charnock engaged to return the Mogul ships he had taken. The

cause of this sudden change in favour of the English, was the following. When the troubles in Bengal commenced, the Court of Directors, who were determined to carry everything by force, sent orders to their governor at Surat to withdraw the factories from thence, and begin a war at sea on the Emperor. The Company's factory at Surat was immediately closed ; and every Mogul ship which approached, or left the shores of India, was taken. The English now guarded the harbour and commanded the sea ; and the road to Mecca was closed. It was in order to open this path to his subjects, that the proud Aurungzebe was obliged to accommodate matters with the English. After the treaty had been concluded, Mr. Charnock removed from Ingelee to Oolooberiah, and from thence to Chuttanutty.

The Nabob, however, soon began his old course of oppression. He ordered the English to return to Hooghly, and not to build either with stone or brick at Chuttanutty ; he allowed his troops to plunder them, and demanded a large sum of money of Mr. Charnock, who had neither arms to oppose the Nabob, nor money to satisfy him. He, therefore, sent two of the Members of Council to Dacca to endeavour to soften him, and to obtain leave to continue at Chuttanutty. After much difficulty, those officers, had just succeeded in their wishes, when the affairs of the English were again covered with clouds.

When the Court of Directors heard of the Battle of Hooghly, and the retreat of the troops to Ingelee, they determined to send a large force to Bengal. They resolved, that if they could not obtain a fort, and a mint, they would throw up the trade, and leave the country altogether. They

accordingly sent out Capt. Heath with two ships, one carrying sixty-four guns, with orders, if he could not obtain what they desired, to take all their servants and proceed to Madras. Capt. Heath was a head strong man, led only by his own hot passions. He arrived in Bengal in October, 1688, and ordered all the Company's servant's to embark, with all the public property, on board his fleet, and on the 8th November sailed down to Balasore. Mr. Charnock endeavoured to moderate his haste, but in vain. When he had reached Balasore roads, the governor of the town seized the two Company's factors there, and held them as pledges. But though the chiefs of the factories were now prisoners, and the two deputies were still in the power of the Nabob at Dacca, Heath landed his troops at Balasore on the 29th November, and plundered it. That same day the Native governor of the place received a copy of the new treaty which the deputies had made at Dacca, which provided that the English should assist the Moguls in an attack on Arracan. After having ravaged the country, Heath sailed to Chittagong, but he found the works stronger than he had expected. It was agreed, therefore, to write to he Nabob at Dacca; and to state the grievances which the English had suffered. After the letter had been sent this head strong officer refused to wait for a reply, but set sail with his fleet to Arracan. On his arrival there, he sent to the king to state, that be would join him in attacking the Moguls, if the English might have settlement in his dominions. A fortnight elapsed without a reply. Heath became impatient, and set sail for Madras with the whole fleets consisting of fifteen sail, on which

were embarked the Governor, the Council, the Company's servants, and all their merchandize. Thus were the English settlements in Bengal entirely abandoned about fifty years after they had begun to trade in the Country. Bombay and Madras being fortified, were not touched, but the Emperor ordered all the other factories of the English to be destroyed, and their goods to be seized throughout his dominions.

The Nabob, Shaista Khan, was obliged to comply with these orders. He sequesterd all the Company's property in Bengal and is said to have placed their two agents at Dacca in irons. Shaista Khan himself being now far advanced in years, asked permission to resign the government of Bengal. Though he behaved severely to the Europeans, he was beloved by the Natives. It is said that during his administration grain was sold at eight maunds the rupee. To preserve this happy event in the memory of the people, he built up the gate of the city of Dacca, through which he left it, and placed over it an inscription, forbidding any Nabob in future pass through it, till he had made grain as cheap.

Ibrahim Khan and Azim Oshan.

Ibrahim Khan succeeded him in 1689. One of his first acts was to release the two English deputies who had been confined by his predecessor. Hostilities, however, still continued between the English and the Moguls. The English had the command of the sea, and captured every Mogul vessel which left the shores of India. The voyage of the pilgrims to Mecca was again interrupted. After much negotiation, Aurungzebe resolved to "forgive their past offences, and to

allow them to settle as in times past." On this basis a treaty was made with the governor of Bombay; and when Ibrahim Khan was appointed to Bengal he was directed to invite the English back. Mr. Charnock accordingly returned with all his establishment, and on the 24th August 1690, landed at Chuttanutty, and from this date may we reckon the rise of the city of Calcutta. The next year, the imperial order, the Husbool-hookum, arrived from Delhi. Two years after laying the foundation of Calcutta, Mr. Charnock died.

Affairs now proceeded smoothly. The trade to Bengal, though not large, was steady. The Company were very anxious to obtain a grant of some of the surrounding villages, that they might raise a land revenue, and be able to entertain a large guard.

In 1695, Sobah Sing, a Hindu zeminder, in Burdwan, being dissatisfied with the rajah, revolted, and invited Rehim Khan, the chief of the Orissa Affghans, to join him. When their forces were united, they gave battle to the rajah, who was defeated and slain. Jugut Roy, his son, fled to Dacca, and laid his complaint before the Nabob, who ordered the Fouzdar of Jessore to proceed with three thousand men, and subdue the rebels. Under the weak administration of Ibrahim, the government in the provinces had fallen into disorder. Even so small a force was raised with difficulty; and when the troops marched to Hooghly, they no sooner saw the enemy than they took fright, recrossed the river, and fled. This great and wealthy town fell soon after into the hands of the insurgents.

The Dutch and the French immediately

declared for the soobadar, and the English soon after ranged themselves on the same side. When the insurrection broke out, they all asked the soobadar's permission to put their factories in a state of defence. He desired them in general terms to defend themselves; and they willingly* took this for permission to fortify their settlements. The Dutch factory at Chinsurah was defended by a fort, which had been erected some years before this time; it was now put in good repair. The English at Calcutta lost no time in fortifying the village of Chuttanutty; and they obliged every individual to labour night and day at it, till the fort was sufficiently raised. This was the old fort, which stood between Tank Square and the river.

The rebles having now taken Hooghly, became very bold, and sent troops on every direction to plunder the country. Sobha Singh died soon after, and the rebels made Rehim Khan their chief. He proceeded to conquer district after district, so that scarcely a day passed in which the soobadar did not hear of some disaster. But nothing could rouse him from his lethargy. His sloth gave them additional courage. One party of their troops advanced Moorshedabad, defeated five thousand of the Mogul soldiers, and plundered the city. Another party approached Calcutta, but was immediately repulsed. In, March 1697, they took possession of Rajmahal, and marching to Malda, plundered the factory of the English of immense wealth. By this time they were in possession of a country which yielded sixty lakhs of rupees a year, and their army amounted to 12,000 horse and 30,000 infantry.

The first news of these extraordinary events

reached the Emperor Aurungzebe by the Akbars. He instantly appointed his son, Azim Oshan, soobadar of the provinces, and ordered Ibrahim to make over the army to his own valiant son Zuburdust Khan. This able general immediately assembled the troops, and proceeded in search of the rebels, with whom he came up to Bhagwangola. The first day he disabled their guns; the second, he gave them battle in which they were completely defeated. Rehim Khan was driven back to Orissa, and peace again smiled on the country.

Meanwhile Azim Oshan, the new viceroy, arriving at Patna, heard of the valiant exploits of Zuburdust Khan, and fearing that there would be nothing left to do, ordered him not to risk another battle. Zuburdust knew well that the order proceeded from jealously, and asked leave to retire from the service, which was readily granted him. The prince, Azim Oshan, came down to Burdwan, where he took up his residence and received the congratulation of the zemindars and others. Rehim Khan despised this silken Prince. as much as he feared the iron-handed Zuburdust. While, therefore, the Court was engaged in rejoicing, he assembled his men, plundered Hooghly and Nuddea, and approached within a few miles of Burdwan itself.

On the arrival of Azim Oshan at Burdwan, the English deputed Mr. Stanley to wait on him. His object was to obtain a grant of the neighbouring villages of Calcutta and Govindpore, and he took with him a present of thousand gold mohurs for the soobadar, and broad cloth valued at 800 rupees for the Dewan. Azim Oshan had but one object in view, to amass wealth, and no favour

was granted without a present. He received the English deputy graciously, took the money, and in July, 1698, granted leave to purchase the ground upon which the City of Palaces now stands. The next year, 1699, the Directors made Bengal a Presidency, and the fort was completed by Sir Charles Eyre and called after the king of England, Fort William.

When Azim Oshan heard that Rehim Khan had again taken the field; he sent messenger to him to say, that if he return to his duty, he should be forgiven. The rebel replied, that if the Prince would send him his chief counsellor, Khawja Anwas, he would submit. The Prince was foolish enough to do so. The minister was treated with respect on his arrival in the rebel camp, but on leaving it was cut to pieces. Rehim Khan now knew that he had nothing further to hope, and determined to attack the Prince's army while he was off his guard. A large body of Affghans surrounded the camp of Azim Oshan, and he had just time to mount his elephant, when a furious attack was made on him. He would assuredly have been put to death, if Hamid Khan one of the bravest of his officers, had not called out, that he was the Prince, and challenged Rehim Khan to single combat. A sharp encounter took place, which ended in Hamid's cutting off the rebels head. His troops, seeing their chief fall, fled in every direction. The noble Hamid was rewarded for this act with a title, and raised to the dignity of Fouzdar. Azim Oshan continued some time at Burdwan, where he erected a new bazar, which he called Azim Gunge. He likewise regulated the customs of the port of Hooghly at two and a half percent for Mahomedans; five per cent,

for Hindoos; and three and a half per cent for Christians. The English, however, were exempted from this rule, because, according to the Imperial firman, they paid 3000 Rupees by the year. He is said also to have established the Sayer, or internal duties on articles passing from one place to another.

Meanwhile the English settlement at Calcutta grew and flourished. The three villages of which they had obtained a grant, extended three miles along the river, and one mile inland.

Morrshed Kooly Khan.

We now come to speak of Moorshed Kooly Khan, also called Jaffer Khan, the founder of Moorshedabad, and the ablest governor who ever ruled Bengal under the Mahomedans. He was Hindoo, the son of a poor brahman, and was purchased, when a boy, by Hazy Suffia, a Musulman merchant, who caused him to be circumcised, and took him to Ispahan, where he gave him a good education.

Moorshed Kooly Khan, on receiving his appointment, proceeded to Dacca, where the Court was held and as the finances had fallen into great disorder, he exerted himself to improve them. He was very careful of the public expenditure; and as he would not let the Prince have as much money as he and his courtiers desired, a plan was laid to get rid of him. He drew up an account of this, and sent it to the Emperor, who wrote sharply to the Prince, and told him he should be held answerable if the person or the property of the Dewan was touched. At the same time he ordered him to quit Bengal, and to go and reside in Behar. This happened in 1703.

It was at the beginning of this century, that a new and rival Company was set up by Parliament to trade to India. They passed under the name of the English Company, whereas the real old Company was known as the London Company. This new body sent agents all over India; and among other places, to Hooghly. The rivalry which arose between the two Companies was so very injurious to both, that in five years the Government of England was obliged to unite them together. They took the name of the United East India Company, by which title the Company continued afterwards to be known.

In 1703, the second year of his appointment, Moorshed Kooly Khan, made up the accounts of the revenues, and proceeded into the Deccan to lay them before the Emperor. Since Aurungzebe had been on his throne, Bengal and Behar had never been so productive. He was so delighted with the Dewan's activity, that he made him Deputy Nazim for the provinces of Bengal and Orissa, and presented him with an honorary dress. This gave great offence to Azim Oshan; but he knew his grandfather's temper, and was obliged to submit.

The great Aurungzebe died on the 21st Eebruary 1707, in the ninety-first year of his age. The day after the Emperor's death, his second son, Azim Shah, mounted the throne, and began his march to Delhi. Azim Oshan, immediately left Bengal, to join in the struggles for the Empire. He took with him a body of disciplined troops, and eight crores of Rupees, which he had amassed. He resolved to endeavour to seat his father on the throne. At length the armies of the two brothers met in battle, on the plains of Jajo, near Agra.

Azim Shah was totally defeated. He perished on the field with his two sons. The victor immediately ascended the throne, and took the name of Bahadar Shah. The success of this day was owing to the efforts of Azim Oshan, and his father, to reward his merits, appointed him a new soobadar of three provinces, and directed him to confirm Moorshed Kooly Khan as his deputy in Bengal. The Prince took this opportunity to push on two of his friends, the Syuds, descendants of the Prophet. Syud Abdulla Khan was appointed to the government of Allahabad; Syud Hussein Khan to that of Behar.

Bahadar Shah died at Lahore in 1712, after a reign of five years. All his sons were at the time in the camp, all eager for throne. Unable to agree among themselves, they determined to decide the question by the sword. In the battle which ensued, Azim Oshan was on one side, and all his brothers on the other. He was defeated, and the elephant on which he was mounted, having been struck by a cannon ball, plunged with his master into the Ravee, where both perished. The son of Azim Oshan was at the same time put to death by his brother Mois-ood-deen, who mounted the throne of Delhi, and took the name of Jehander Shah. Before we resume the history of Bengal, we will complete the events connected with Delhi.

When Azim Oshan quitted the Lower Provinces to join his father, in 1707, he left his son Ferokshere, as his agent in Bengal.

After the death of Behadar Shah and of his son, in 1712, Ferokshere proceeded on to Patna, and took up his residence in a caravanserai. The Governor of Behar at the time was Syud Hussein

Ally, who owed his rise to Ferokshere's father. He, therefore, entreated Hussein Aly to assist him to mount the throne; but Hussein was unmoved by his prayers. At last he, unable to withstand the entreaties, turned to Ferokshere and said all I can offer you is my life; and this I devote to your service. The next day Hussein introduced him into the city of Patna, and proclaimed him Emperor of Hindustan. When Syud Abdullah, the Governor of Allahabad, determined to support the cause of Ferokshere, the son of his benefactor; and the two brothers employed themselves in endeavouring to seat him on the throne. He proceeded by easy marches to Allahabad, his army increasing as he advanced. The contending armies of Jehandar and Ferokshere at length met, in January, 1713, in the vicinity of Agra; and after a battle which lasted a whole day, Jehander Shah's troops were entirely defeated; he himself was soon put to death, and Ferokshere was proclaimed Emperor. Though he had real cause of complaint against Moorshed Kooly Khan, he confirmed him in all his appointments.

As soon as Moorshed Kooly Khan was firmly seated in power, he set at naught the privileges the English had gained from prince Soojah and the Emperor Aurungzebe, and demanded either the same duty which the natives paid, or repeated presents. These demands irritated the Company, and they determined to send an embassy to the Emperor at Delhi. It consisted of two of their ablest servants, and Khojah Serhand, an Armenian, who was said to be well versed in native intrigues, with Mr. William Hamilton, for their surgeon. The presents which they took

were very rare and valuable, and were said to be worth three Lakhs of rupees.

The soobadar had looked with jealousy on the embassy, resolved to make it fruitless. He would, probably, have succeeded, but for one event. Just then the Emperor was attacked with a sharp disease, which his physicians could not cure. On the advice of the Khan Dowran, Mr. Hamilton, the English surgeon, was called in; and restored the Emperor to health. The grateful monarch promised to give him whatever he might ask. He imitated the noble example of Mr. Boughton, and only prayed that the Emperor would grant what the embassy had come for. The Emperor promised to do so. The request of the English was, that a dustuck or passport from the President at Calcutta, should exempt all goods mentioned in it from being stopped or searched by the Native officers; that the mint at Moorshedabad should give three days to coin money for the Company; that all persons, European or Native, indebted to the English, should be given up to the President in Calcutta; and, that the English should be allowed to purchase thirty-eight towns and villages around Calcutta. The ministers raised many objections to these demands but they were in the end granted.

The embassadors took their departure in triumph, in 1717. Moorshed Kooly Khan beheld their success with indignation. The thirty-eight villages which had been granted them, gave them ten miles south of Calcutta on each side of the Hooghly. Thus it gave them also the command of that river, and, of course of the maritime trade in Bengal. After the return of the embassy, the citizens of Calcutta, both Euro-

pean and Native, enjoyed a degree of freedom which was unknown elsewhere. Merchants from all parts flocked to the settlement, and built houses, and established counting houses. The shipping soon amounted to 10,000 tons; and Calcutta became the most flourishing port in India.

In 1718 Moorshed Kooly Khan was appointed by the Court of Delhi, Nazim and Dewan of Behar, as well as of Bengal and Orissa. No subject had ever enjoyed such power in the Mogul empire, since the days of Akbar. The next year, the unfortunate Ferokshere was put to a cruel death, and was succeeded by Mahomed Shah.

During the eighteen years in which Moorshed Kooly Khan governed Bengal without control, he made the most important changes in the collection of revenues. He removed the greater number of the old Jaygeerdars who had been employed in that duty. He divided the country into thirteen *chuklahs*. In all these divisions, great as well as small, he appointed zemindars to collect the revenues. The Hindoo Rajahs of Dinagepore, Nuddea, Rajshahye, and other places, were created by him. In every case the Nabob chose to employ Hindus in collecting the revenues, because they were not only docile but able in accounts.

Before he made over these large estates to the new zemindars, he caused an accurate survey of them to be made by his own officers. In the year 1722, his rent roll was completed. It was the third which had been established since the Moguls conquered the country; and it shewed an assessment of the whole of Bengal, of one

crore, forty-two lakhs. and eighty eight thousand rupees. Moorshed Kooly Khan was punctual in remitting this revenue to the imperial treasury at Delhi, every year; and hence it was, that whoever became emperor, he remained soobadar of the three provinces. The remittance was made in species.

The whole of the troops employed in guarding the country and collecting the revenue, did not exceed 2,000 cavalry and 4,000 infantry. Before his time the Nazim had retained a body-guard of 3,000 horse; these he dismissed, and thus saved ten lakhs of rupees a year. He examined all the accounts himself, and confided in no one. He was severe in the exaction of the revenue.

Moorshed Kooly Khan devoted two days in the week to the administration of justice; his decisions were so impartial, that they became famous through Hindoostan. He was constant to one wife, and never admitted any eunuchs into his palace. He was careful to provide against famine, and never permitted the exportation of grain. He was himself well versed in Mahomedan lore, and encouraged learned men; he was also exceedingly charitable to all. His habits were simple; he partook only of the most ordinary food; he indulged in no luxury; his whole soul was given up to business.

He used every effort to procure for his grandson, Serferaj Khan, the same high post which he had enjoyed. But the father of the youth Soojah ood-deen, then Governor of Orissa, counteracted his father-in-laws views, and endeavoured to obtain the soobadaree for himself. That great man died the next year, 1725, after hav-

ing governed Bengal twenty-four years, of which for eighteen years he had none to control him. Soojah-ood-deen set off for the capital. On his way he heard of the death of the Nabob, and at the same time received the imperial appointment to the office. He found his son ready to take possession of the guddee. But when the young man perceived that his father was supported by the Court of Delhi, he wisely gave up his claims, and Sooja-ood-deen became Nazim and Dewan of Bengal, in 1725. Though Moorshed Kooly Khan had watched the English with jealousy, and often thwarted their views, they greatly regretted his death.

Soojah-ood-deen.

Soojah-ood-deen was descended from a Turkoman family of Khorsan. He was born at Boorhanpore, in the Deccan, and having in his youth formed an intimacy with Moorshed Kooly Khan, received his daughter in marriage. When Moorshed was nominated Dewan of Bengal, he sent his son-in-law as his his deputy into Orissa. Soon after, a relative of Soojah's, one Mirza Mahomed, joined him with his two sons, who were called Hajy Ahmed and Mirza Mahomed Aly. The brothers were placed in public posts, and being men of ability, made the rule of their patron very popular.

Soojah appointed his son, Serferaj Khan, the Dewan of Bengal, and associated Roy Alum chand, a Hindu, with him as his deputy, with the title of Roy Royan. He soon after formed a Council of State, whom he was accustomed to consult in all important affairs. It consisted of the two brothers, Hajy Ahmed and Mirza Mahomed Aly, of Alum

Chand, and Jugut Sett, the imperial banker. He began his government by an act of clemency; he released all the zemindars whom his predecessor had imprisoned for arrears. It is said, that notwithstanding his mildness, he was enabled to remit to Delhi a crore and forty-eight lakhs of Rupees from the revenues of Bengal and Orissa, the first year, but this sum must have included the effects of his father-in-law.

The year after the death of Moorshed in the year, 1726, a Mayor's Court was established in Calcutta, to dispense justice upon the same footing as the Madras Court. It was composed of a Mayor and Aldermen, who were all English.

Soojah ood-deen threw off the frugal habits of his predecessor. He increased the army from five to twenty-five thousand men, with an equal proportion of cavalry and infantry.

Two years after his accession, the governor of Behar having conducted himself amiss, was deposed, and that soobah was again annexed to Bengal. Soojah-ood-deen was anxious to confer the government on his son, Serferaj Khan, but his wife would not part with him. It was, therefore, given to Mirza Mohomed Aly, better known as Aly Verdy Khan, who was, doubtless, the ablest man at the court. He continued to govern it for eleven years, till the year 1740. On arriving at Patna, he found the government in great disorder. He, therefore, took into his service a body of Affghan troops, under Abul Kureem Khan, a brave officer. With their aid, and that of the troops he brought with him, he brought the country into order.

Soojah-ood-deen had appointed his son-in-law, Moorshed Kooly, Deputy Nazim of the province

of Dacca; who employed a person of the name of Meer Hubeeb, as his Dewan. From this time the kingdom of Tipperah, which from the most ancient times had been independent, was annexed to the Mahomedan dominions. The next year, Moorshed Kooly was appointed deputy governor of Orissa, and took his able Dewan, Meer Hubeeb, with him. Under his management, the expenses of the province were lessened, and the revenues increased.

When Moorshed Kooly was removed to Orissa, Soojah-ood-deen, appointed his son, Serferaj Khan, to the nominal government of Dacca, naming Ghalib Aly, as his deputy, and Jeswunt Roy, as the dewan of the province. This able man had been trained up under the former Nazim, Moorshed Kooly Khan, and imitated his example in piety, charity and attention to business. It has been stated before, that when Shaista Khan governed Bengal, and held his court at Dacca, he reduced the price of corn to eight maunds the Rupee, and to keep this event in memory, built up the gate through which he left the city, and ordered that no one should open it, till he could reduce grain to a lower price. Jeswunt Roy succeeded in doing so, and ordered the gate to be thrown open to the public. As the viceroy, Sooja-ood-deen, advanced in years, he paid less attention to business, and his son Serferaj, took much upon himself. He unwisely recalled Ghalib Aly from Dacca, and sent a young man, a relative, Murad Aly, to be deputy governor, who took with him Rajballub, and made him Peshker. They began their government with many oppressions, which so disgusted Jeswant Roy, that he threw up his office and returned to Moorshedabad.

As there was no longer one to control Murad Aly and Rajballub, they began to commit every species of oppression, and soon reduced the province to poverty.

During the reign of Soojah-ood-deen, the foreign settlements of the English, French and Ducth, enjoyed peace, and increased in wealth. The agents of the English Company in India, were too deeply engaged in private trade, to pay attention to the interest of their masters. Though the higher officers in calcutta did not receive more than 300 Rupees a month, yet they, one and all, lived in a style of the greatest luxury; and this they were enabled to do from the profits of their private trade. The Court of Directors were obliged, therefore, to write out and rebuke their servants for this style of living. The French settlement at Chandernagore was under the direction of that great man, Dupleix, from 1730 to 1742; and he increased its prosperty beyond all his predecessors.

In the year 1737, on the night of the 11th of October, there was a furious hurricane at the mouth of the Bhagirathee, the effects of which were felt nearly two hundred miles up the river. Calcutta suffered beyond description. At the same time occurred a violent earthquake, which did infinite damage to the town. Two hundred houses were destroyed; and the magnificent steeple of the Church sunk into the ground, without breaking. Twenty thousand ships, sloops and boats, are said to have been destroyed. Of nine English ships then in the river, eight were lost with all their crews. Vessels of sixty tons burden were carried over the tops of the trees, and lodged in land two miles from the river. The

loss of life was computed at three hundred thousand souls. The water rose forty feet higher than usual in the river. These calamities were followed the next year by famine. The Governor of Calcutta came forward and liberally assisted the poor natives.

The reign of Soojah-ood-deen, which extended to fourteen years, was very prosperous. He himself is represented as having been a model of justice, kindness and liberality. Finding his end approaching, he called his son, Serferaj Khan, and having made him promise to follow the counsel of Hajy Ahmed, Jugut Sett, and the Roy Royan, he appointed him to the government. This was the first time in which the governor of Bengal had ventured to appoint his own successor since the Moguls had conquered the country. But at this time, Nadir Shah, of Persia, had invaded India and the Mogul Empire was shaken to its foundation. The Emperor had too much to do at home to attend to the affairs of a distant province. Soojah-ood-deen died in 1739.

Serferaj Khan.

His son Serferaj Khan, mounted the throne without opposition, and sent messengers to Delhi, to beg that he might be confirmed. Nadir Shah, who had now conquered that unfortunate city, sent into Bengal to demand the arrears of revenue. His letter, which was addressed to Soojah-ood-deen, reached Serferaj Khan, who not only transmitted the tribute, but ordered the coin to be struck in the name of the conqueror. He retained the old counsellors whom his father had recommended, Roy Alum Chand, Jogut Sett, and Hajy Ahmed; but he paid more attention to his devotions than to business. The brother of Hajy

Ahmed, Aly Verdy Khan, was then governor of Behar, and the most powerful subject in the three provinces. Unhappily for the viceroy, he received three or four noblemen into his confidence, who hated the family of the Hajy, and took every occasion to poison their master's mind, and to inflame him against them. Jagut Sett also became alienated. Serferaj Khan, who was a man of licentious habits, determined one day to see the beautiful bride of Jagut Sett's son; thus the whole of that powerful family became enemies of his throne. A combination was now formed to dethrone Serferaj. Aly Verdy Khan, seeing that there was no security for his family while the viceroy reigned, employed his interest at Delhi to obtain the governorship for himself. He promised to transmit a crore of Rupees over and above the annual tribute, and all Serferaj's property. Ten months after Nadir Shah's departure from India, and thirteen months after Soojah-ood-deen's death, he received his patent from the Emperor. He then collected his army, to revenge the wrongs of his family. Aly Verdy at the same time wrote to the Viceroy, that though he was coming to remove his family, who had been insulted, he was still a dutiful subject. Serferaj was struck with astonishment when he heard that Aly Verdy was marching against him. After much delay his army was assembled together, and marched to Geriah, not far from his capital. The two armies at length met; a fierce battle ensued; a musket ball laid Serferaj dead on the field, and his army fled. Aly Verdy Khan marched slowly to Moorshedabad, and ascended the throne of his benefactor. The battle of Geriah occurred in January, 1741.

Aly Verdy Khan.

Aly Verdy Khan was sixty-five years old when he became the soobadar, or viceroy of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa. He obtained the government nominally, by the imperial firman, but in reality by the power of his sword. He had been employed for more than twenty years in the management of public affairs, in peace and in war; and he was equally able in the cabinet as in the field.

On his arrival at Moorshedabad, instead of putting to death any of the family or followers of Serferaj Khan, he treated them with the greatest tenderness. Aly Verdy treated the widow of Moorshed Kooly Khan with such veneration, that he wonld never sit down in her presence, without permission. By such wise measures he conciliated his enemies. He also transmitted to the Court, the crore of rupees which he had promised, likewise a *pescush* or present, and a large portion of the property of Serferaj Khan's; he thus secured the emperor in his favor. He had no son of his own; but his three daughters were married to his three nephews, the children of his brother Hajy Ahmed. The eldest, Newaish Mahomed, was made Governor of Dacca; the youngest, Zyn-ood-deen, governor of Beher; and his son was adopted by Aly Verdy, as his own heir, and invested with the title of Seraj-ood-dowla. His second nephew Syed Ahmed Khan was promised the government of Orissa, when it should be conquered.

Orissa had been placed by Soojah-ood-deen in the hands of his son-in-law, Moorshed Kooly, who was accompanied by his able minister, Meer Hubeeb. He was deposed to submit to the

superior fortune of Aly Verdy, but his own wife and his valiant son-in-law, Bakhir Aly, gave him different counsel. They urged him to revenge the death of Serferaj, and to make an effort to acquire so rich a prize as Bengal for himself. He accordingly broke off a treaty which had been begun; and Aly Verdy on hearing of it, ordered him to quit Orissa without delay. Moorshed now assembled his generals, and asked if they would stand by him. Abed Aly, his generalissimo, assured him that he might rely on their faithfulness. The army was then advanced beyond Balasore, towards Bengal, and encamped in a very strong position. Aly verdy, with twelve thousand of his best troops, moved down to meet him. The troops were accordingly drawn out, and as soon as they joined battle, Abed Aly treacherously left his master, and went over to Aly Verdy, who was thus enabled to gain a complete victory. Moorshed Kooly fell from the field to the sea-shore, where providentially, there was a Surat merchant-man riding at anchor. He embarked on it with his friends, and sailed to Masulipattam.

Aly Verdy remained a month at Cuttack. After having settled the country, he appointed his second nephew, Synd Ahmed, governor, and returned to Moorshedabad. But this young man gave himself up to evil counsels, and brought his affairs to ruin. The people were oppressed, and became restless. Mirza Bakhir was all this time hovering over the province, ready to take advantage of any movement. He inflamed the minds of the people by his envoys; and a revolt at length broke forth in the city. Mirza Bakhir was called in; Syud Ahamed was placed in con-

finement; and the province of Orissa was lost to Aly Verdy.

He was not a little surprised to hear of this reverse, and supposed that Mirza Bakhir must have been secretly supported by Nizam-ool-moolk, the viceroy of the Deccan. He, therefore, assembled an army, three times as large as that with which he had conquered the province, and advanced with great haste to the frontier. On arriving there, he promised a lakh of rupees to any one who should rescue his nephew. A battle was fought on the banks of the Mahanadee, between Aly Verdy and Mirza Bakhir, in which the former was again victorious. Aly Verdy Khan received Syud Ahmed with tears of joy, and after several day's entertainment, sent him to Moorshedabad to delight the eyes of his parents. He appointed a new deputy governor over the province of Orissa, and marched back.

But the greatest calamity with which Bengal had been visited for many centuries, was about to fall upon it. As Aly Verdy Khan approached the town of Midnapore with his small retinue, an army of twenty five thousand Mahratta horse poured down suddenly on the province, under Bhaskur Pundit, the general of Rughoo-jee, the king of Nagpore. The viceroy was totally unprovided for such an event. He instantly broke up his camp and hastened to Burdwan; but as he approached it on one side, the Mahrattas arrived in the opposite direction, and set it on fire. Their chief then sent to demand ten lakhs of rupees, and promised to retire, if it was paid. The viceroy scorned to buy peace on such terms. His own chief officers had not afforded him the assistance which during the day they ought to have

given. He suspected treachery. The next day he sent to the Mahrattas to sue for peace. Bhaskur Pundit replied to his envoy, "as your master is one of the greatest sovereigns in India, we will spare him if he will pay down one crore of rupees, and give up all his elephants." Aly Verdy was inflamed at this demand and replied, that as long as his soul was in his body, he would never submit to such infamy. In the dead of the night, he took his young grandson, Seraj-ood-dowla, by the hand, and walked without an attendant to the tent of Mustapha Khan, his commander-in-chief. Mustapha called up the other discontented generals, and they one and all swore that they would stand by their master to the last. Aly Verdy Khan the next morning resolved to cut his way through the enemy, to Cutwa; and they proceeded slowly fighting all day. At night the Mahrattas renewed the attack. Meer Hubeeb was wounded and fell into their hands; and having a violent hatred of Aly Verdy, he took service with them and became for some years the scourge of Bengal. The viceroy's troops were kept together with great difficulty. The next day they proceeded on their route, fighting every inch of the way. They had neither tents nor baggage; neither guns nor food. At length they came in sight of Cutwa, where they hoped to obtain repose and plenty; but Bhaskur had sent his horsemen beforehand and burned the town and destroyed the grain. Aly Verdy on his arrival there, immediately wrote to Moorshedabad for supplies, which came down to him in great abundance.

The noble conduct of the Viceroy in this retreat, not a little suprised the Mahrattas. The

rains of 1741 had now set in, Bhaskur Pundit determined to return to his master; but Meer Hubeeb, his new ally, was anxious to get something more out of Bengal before he left it. He accordingly took several thousand of the best horse, and rode in one day from Cutwa to Moorshedabad. Aly Verdy, followed him close, but before he could come up, Meer Hubeeb had already plundered the suburbs of the city and taken no less than two crores of rupees from the house of Jagut sett, the rich banker; Meer Hubeeb with the Mahrattas, came down and plundered Hooghly, and laid the whole country from Balasore to Rajmahal, under contribution. On his approaching Calcutta, the English began to repair their fortifications, and for greater security, dug a ditch round their settlement, called the Mahratta ditch. The name is still preserved, though the ditch is not to be seen.

The Viceroy now made extraordinary efforts to expel the Mahrattas. Fresh troops were enlisted, and the artillery put in order. The Emperor ordered the soobadar of Oude to advance to the succour of the province; but when he arrived at Patna he gave himself such airs, that Aly Verdy was more happy at his departure than at his arrival. The Emperor also wrote to Ballajee Row, the commander-in-chief of the Mahrattas, advising him to proceed to Bengal, and expel the Nagpore Mahrattas, or he should not be able to pay him the *chout* of the other provinces.

Aly Verdy having now assembled his army, crossed the river during the night by a bridge of boats, and fell upon their host at dawn. They were completely defeated and driven to Balasore,

and finally accross the Chilka Lake entirely out of the province.

While Aly Verdy Khan was chasing his general through Orissa, Raghoo-jee, the rajah of Nagpore, himself was entering Bengal in another direction, and was now encamped not far from the capital. Ballajee-row also came in at the request of the Emperor. Aly Verdy went out to meet him as he advanced from Bhagulpur. After the first interview which was very friendly, the Viceroy requested his new ally to join him in driving out Raghoo-jee. But the object of Ballajee row was not to defend, but to plunder Bengal, he, therefore, demanded the *chout* of the revenues of Behar, which he said had not been paid for many years. The Viceroy was obliged to submit, and to pay him the utmost courie, which he said was duc. But even after he had been paid, he hesitated to proceed against the other Mahratta army; and Aly Verdy was obliged to march alone. Ragoo-jee had in the meantime heard that there was a union between Ballajee and the viceroy, and thought it prudent to decamp. On Aly Verdy's approach, he struck his tents and fled into the mountains. Ballajee no sooner heard of this flight, than he immediately set out in pursuit of this body of his own countrymen, and gave them a total defeat. Ballajee having enriched himself with the plunder of his brother Mahrattas, and with the chout he had squeezed out of Aly Verdy, thought it the time to depart also for his home.

The rains of 1744 were no sooner over, than Bhaskur Pandit was set with a fresh army of twenty thousand men, to invade Bengal. He had orders

to retire, if the Viceroy would agree to pay him the same sum which he had paid the year before to Ballajee. Aly Verdy, wearied with these repeated attacks, determined, if possible, to take off his enemy by treachery. He proposed to his own general, Mustapha Khan, to assist him in this act of perfidy; he refused at first, and only agreed to it at length, on being promised the Government of Behar. Aly Verdy then sent him and another officer to treat with the Mahrattas; and they promised, to agree to Bhaskur Pundit's demands, if he would pay a visit, to the viceroy. Blinded by his avarice, he agreed to the proposal. On the day of meeting, armed men were placed in ambush round the tents. Bhaskur and his chief officers entered Aly Verdy's tent with their hands on the hilt of their swords, as if they suspected treachery. As the Mahratta chieftain advanced, Aly Verdy Khan rose from his throne, and asked three times, which was the valiant Bhaskur; and on his being pointed out, exclaimed, "Fall upon those freebooters." Instantly, his attendants drew their sabre; and fell upon the Mahratta general and officers; they sold their lives dear, but were at length overcome, and every man was cut down. The Mahratta army, in fact no sooner heard that their officers had been massacred, than they retreated in haste to their own country.

The viceroy thus obtained some respite from the Mahrattas, but a more dreadful enemy now appeared in his own camp. Mustapha demanded the performance of his promise; and insisted on immediately having the government of Behar. This the viceroy was resolved not to grant. At length, Mustapha publicly declared his intention

of quitting the viceroy's service, and demanded his arrears; they were paid him to the extent of seventeen lakhs of rupees, without any examination of his accounts. At length he marched out of Bengal with eight thousand horse and as many foot, plundered Rajmahal, took Monghyr, and encamped before Patna. The governor, Zyn-ood-deen, met him with the few troops he could collect. For seven days, however, there were daily skirmishes between the two armies; on the eighth, Mustapha receiving an arrow in his eye, was obliged to retreat, and fled into the dominions of Oude.

When Mustapha had resolved to revolt against his master, he invited the Mahrattas to join him in the invasion of Bengal. Raghoo-jee was not backward, he burned to revenge the death of Bhaskur Pundit, his general, and to obtain more plunder. He, therefore, entered Bengal with a large army, and approached Moorshedabad. The viceroy having two enemies on his hands, was in no small dilemma. He directed his son-in-law, Zyn-ood-deen, to watch Mustapha, and to prevent his approaching Bengal. Meanwhile Zyn-ood-deen met Mustapha in battle; the rebel was killed, and his troops were dispersed.

The viceroy on hearing of this victory, and seeing himself delivered from one enemy, sent a haughty message to the Mahrattas, and both parties prepared to meet each other after the rains. A decisive engagement was at length fought at Cutwa; the Mahrattas were entirely defeated with great slaughter and fled to their own country.

The province of Cuttack was still in possession of the Mahrattas, and Aly Verdy was determined

to expel them from it. He deputed one of his best generals, Meer Jaffer, on this expedition. Jaffer, advanced to Midnapore, but gave himself up to enjoyment, and on the approach of the enemy, retired to Burdwan. Atta-oolah Khan, an officer in his army, however, met and defeated them. He took advantage of his victory to enter into a conspiracy to dethrone his master. He drew Meer Jaffer into his plans by promising to give him the province of Behar; but that general soon after withdrew from the scheme by the advice of his best friends. Aly Verdy no sooner heard of this new act of treachery than he hastened to the scheme, and immediately dismissed both Meer Jaffer, and Att-aoolah Khan from his service. He gave the Mahrattas battle, beat them, and retired to Moorshedabad before the rains of 1748.

New treacheries however awaited him. His nephew Zyn-ood-deen, the Governor of Behar, reflected on the incapacity of his two brothers, and the great age of his uncle, and the thought came into his mind that with a little exertion, he might become viceroy. For this purpose, he wrote to Aly Verdy to say, that the two generals he had dismissed, namely, Shumshere Khan and Sirdar Khan, were constantly increasing their troops, at Durbanga; and that they ought either to be subdued, or to be attached to the public service; he asked permission, therefore, to receive them and their followers into his army. His object was to increase his troops that he might be prepared to struggle for the throne. The viceroy with some reluctance, consented. A time was appointed for the two generals to pay their respects to the Governor, and while the

Governor was employed in distributing beetle among the officers, who had been introduced to him, one of them laid him dead at one blow.

Shumshere Khan, after having ransacked the palace, sent for Hajy Ahmed, the father of the murdered governor. They tortured him for seventeen days to discover his treasure. Worn out with pain he at length expired, and the insurgents obtained all his gold and silver. The widow of Zyn-ood-deen, fell into the hands of these Affghan traitors.

Aly Verdy Khan was deeply affected when he heard that his brother and nephew were slain, that his daughter was a captive, and that Behar was lost. While these events happened at Patna his old enemies, the Mahrattas under Meer Hubeeb, entered Bengal, and threatened his capital. But the aged viceroy never lost his presence of mind. He prepared himself for the crisis.

The viceroy, having equipped an army of fifteen thousand horse and eight thousand foot set off to meet the rebels. The Mahrattas immediately changed their plans, instead of plundering the country proceeded by rapid marches through the hills in the hope of joining the Afghans before the viceroy's arrival. Shumshere Khan and Sirdar Khan moved down with their forces from Patna, to Bar where the Mahrattas met them. It appears to have been the genius of Meer Hubeeb, which had contrived the whole of his plan: the murder of Zyn-ood-deen, the capture of Patna, and the march upon Bengal. Meer Hubeeb went in state to visit the generals; but after the usual compliments, they detained him by force. They informed him that they had engaged in the undertaking only at his request, that they had per-

formed their promise, and that they would not let him off, unless he paid down forty lakhs of rupees. This dispute between the two parties was advantageous to the viceroy, because it prevented a union of the two armies, in the battle which took place the next day. In this battle, the viceroy was completely victorious; both the rebels fell, and their heads were cut off and fastened to the foot of his elephant. When Meer Hubeeb saw that the victory was the viceroy's, he marched off the field without striking a blow. Aly Verdy now entered Patna in triumph and embraced his daughter and grand-children, who had been captive with the enemy. Meer Hubeeb's family had been in confinement by Aly Verdy's orders for eight years, since the day he went over to the Mahrattas. He took this opportunity to restore them to liberty, and sent them back with a suitable escort to the enemy's camp. He appointed his grandson Seraj-ood-dowla, the son of Zyn-ood-deen, governor of Behar, and made rajah Janokee-ram his deputy. Soon after, he placed his nephew, Syud Ahmed in charge of the fouzdaree of Poorneah. Aly Verdy Khan after these arrangements, quitted Patna and returned to his Capital. He had recently forgiven Atta-oolah Khan and Meer Jaffer, their treachery, and restored them to favour. The former he left in charge of Moorshedabad while he proceeded against the two rebel generals; but he intercepted letters from Atta-oolah in which he had promised to join them. The Viceroy was naturally incensed at this second act of treachery, and ordered that the traitor should be expelled from the capital before his return. He left Moorshedabad accord-

ingly with a sum not short of seventy lakhs of rupees in money; besides jewels. This amazing fortune had been amassed while he was in the secondary situation of fouzdar of Bhagulpoor. We are thus enabled to understand the character of Aly Verdy's government. The officers whom he employed were allowed to amass enormous fortunes by plundering the provinces committed to them; the officers flourished, while the poor perished.

Aly Verdy, after a little repose, placed himself again at the head of his army and proceeded to expel the Mahrattas from Orissa. They fled at his approach, so that he found it impossible to bring them to a pitched battle. He had no sooner taken his departure, than Meer Hubeeb again emerged from the woods, and began his usual career of plunder. Aly Verdy was obliged again to advance with his army. But when every preparation had been made, the unfortunate viceroy was alarmed with a new act of treachery.

His grandson, Seraj-ood-dowla, was beloved by him with more than a fatherly affection; and the youth was entirely spoiled by these caresses. Some evil disposed men persuaded him to make an effort to obtain the throne. He yielded to their advice, wrote a letter to Aly Verdy upbraiding him for ill treatment, and set off with his followers for Patna, of which he was the nominal governor, determined to collect troops, and march against his grandfather. Aly Verdy was distracted when he heard of his departure. He was afraid lest his darling grand child, if he made an attack on Patna, should lose his life. Seraj-ood-dowla, having arrived before Patna, ordered Janokee ram to quit it. Sixty of his brave followers broke

down a part of the mud wall which surrounded the city, and entered it; but they were met by the guards, and fell, fighting like heroes. The deputy governor took their master prisoner without bloodshed or violence, and conveyed him safely to the place. When Aly Verdy heard of this event, he became so outrageous in his joy, as to excite the redicule of his own servants. The excess of his joy for the recovery of his grand-son, threw him into a fever, and his life was for some time despaired of. The Mahrattas and Meer-Hubeeb in Orissa, no sooner heard of his dangerous state, than they prepared to make another attack on Bengal. Aly Verdy joined battle with the Mahrattas; completely overthrew them and pursued them through Orissa; but as they constantly eluded him, he returned with his troops to Moorshedabad.

Both parties were now tired of the war. It had lasted ten years; and though the viceroy, except in the first battle, had invariably been victorious, he could not but see that the country was ruined by the ravages of the Mahrattas. Aly Verdy was anxious to put an end to this desolation, both for the sake of the people and for his own sake. He agreed to pay the Mahrattas *twelve lakhs* of rupees a year, as the *chout* of Bengal; to leave the province of Orissa in the hands of Meer Hubeeb as the deputy governor, with leave to pay all the revenues to liquidate the arrears of the Mahratta troops; to fix the Suvarnarekha as the boundary of Bengal to the south, which river the Mahrattas were never to cross. Meer Hubeeb had now attained the height of his wishes, but he was not long to enjoy his triumph. His Mahratta allies, not having

any further need of his services, treacherously put him to death the year after the treaty. Within four years after, that is, in the year 1755, Aly Verdy, as one of the last acts of his life, yielded the province of Orissa entirely to the Mahrattas.

Aly Verdy Khan having thus made peace with the Mahrattas in 1751, enjoyed some breathing time. Though far advanced in life, he set himself to repair the ravages of the war as vigorously as if he had been a young man. By his constant care and attention, the country revived and the ravages of the Mahrattas were almost forgotten.

Nothing worthy of note occurred in his reign after the Mahratta peace, till the year 1756. His grandson, Ekram-ood-dowlah, died at the beginning of this year. He had been adopted by Newaish Mahomed, the nephew of Aly Verdy, who, on the loss of this son, lost his own reason. Seraj-ood-dowla, the other grandson of the viceroy had been, as we have stated, completely spoiled by his grandfather. He paraded the streets of Moorshedabad with his lewed companions and committed every kind of violence on females as well as on men. He had conceived a violent hatred of Hussien Kooly Khan, the deputy governor of Dacca, and of his family, and determined to destroy them. To effect this, he first sent one of his followers to that city, who assassinated the nephew of that noble man in open day, before all the people. He then asked his grandfather's permission to put Hussein Kooly Khan to death. Aly Verdy instead of forbidding this act of violence, left the city and went on hunting to Rajmahal, that he might avoid seeing it. Seraj-

ood-dowla, as he went home from this interview, passed by the house of Hussein Kooly Khan, and ordered him to be brought out, and hacked to pieces before his eyes. His blind brother was dragged forth at the same time and butchered. The curse of God, says the Mahomedan historian, fell on the guilty family of Aly Verdy, for these atrocious murders. Newaish died almost immediately after; his brother Syed Ahmed, governor of Poornea, was carried to his grave in two months, and Aly Verdy, broken hearted with the conduct of his grandson, and bowed down with sorrow for the death of his two nephews, died on the 9th April, 1756.

Aly Verdy was a man of first rate ability both in war and in peace. He possessed great energy of character; and of this he gave proof by pursuing the Mahrattas through Orissa at the head of his troops, when he was seventy-five years of age. During the last five years, his administration was in peace and in the highest degree praiseworthy. During his reign, the French, Dutch and English enjoyed peace and security. He had a presage in his mind, that the kingdom he had acquired would pass into their hands. The great error of his reign was his foolish fondness for his grandson, who became a monster of vice.

Seraj-ood-dowla.

Seraj-ood-dowla took possession of the throne of Bengal and Behar on the 10th of April, 1756. The Emperor of Delhi was reduced to so low a condition that the new viceroy did not consider it necessary to ask for any firman from him. The first act of his government was to send his troops to plunder his aunt, the widow of Newaish Maho-

med, of all her treasures. Her husband had accumulated immense wealth during his sixteen year's government of Dacca, and she succeeded to it on his death. The troops she had hired to defend her property, forsook her in her need ; the money was quietly sent to the viceroy's palace, and she was turned out of her residence. Rajbullab had been the deputy of Newaish Mahomed at Dacca, and as usual in the Mahomedan times, had gained great wealth by plundering the province. Seraj-ood-dowla immediately took Rajbullub, who was then at Moorshedabad, and placed him in confinement. His son, Krishnadas, embarked all the family wealth in boats, and under pretence of going on pilgrimage to Ganga Sagar or Jugannath, proceeded to Calcutta. He arrived on the 17th March, and was allowed by governor, Mr. Drake, to take up his residence in the town. Seraj-ood-dowla was annoyed that this wealth should have escaped him ; he, therefore, sent a messenger to Calcutta, to demand that Krishnadas should be given up, but as the man came without credentials, Mr. Drake turned him out of the town.

Soon after, intelligence was received from Europe that there would probably be a war in a short time between the English and the French. The English, therefore, began to repair their fortifications. This circumstance was not long in reaching the ears of the hot youth now on the throne, who had always cherished the utmost hatred of the English. He wrote a severe letter to Mr. Drake, ordering him not only to erect no new fortifications, but to pull down the old ; and to deliver up Krishnadas without delay.

Syud Ahmed, the uncle of Seraj-ood-dowla

died, a month or two before Aly Verdy; and bequeathed all his wealth and troops, and his province of Poorneah to his son, Sokut Jung, who entered on the government a little before his cousin became the Soobadar. Both of them were equally rash, cruel, and foolish; and it was clear that they could not long remain at peace. Seraj-ood-dowla immediately on his accession, dismissed all his grandfather's old servants and generals, and took into favour young men of licentious habits, who encouraged him in every vice. The chief men of the state unable to bear the outrages, looked about for some one whom they might place on the throne in his stead. A conspiracy was forthwith formed, and an envoy was sent to Delhi to beg the emperor's firman, appointing him Nazim of these provinces. The petition was accompanied by a promise to send a crore of rupees a year to the emperor, and hence it could not but succeed.

Seraj-ood-dowla discovered the conspiracy. He immediately assembled his army and put it in motion towards Poorneah, determined to destroy his cousin, when he received the reply of Mr. Drake, the Governor of Calcutta, to the letter which he had sent. It stated in firm language that he would not comply with the viceroy's orders. On receiving this answer his rage exceeded all bounds. He charged the English with harbouring State offenders, and fortifying themselves in his dominions, and he threatened to root them out. He ordered the camp to break up and the army to march against Calcutta, without a moment's delay. On his way down he plundered the factory of Cossimbazar, and placed the Europeans, he found there, in custody.

The English in Calcutta, had now enjoyed peace for more than sixty years, and had allowed their fortifications to go to decay. The garrison consisted at this time of one hundred and seventy men, of whom only sixty were Europeans. Seraj-ood-dowla was now marching down to attack the town with an army of 40 or 50,000 men, and a good train of artillery. The English saw that they had no chance of resistance; they, therefore, sent repeated letters to beg for peace, and to offer large sums of money. But the viceroy would listen to nothing; he was resolved to exterminate them, and instead of returning any answer, continued his march.

On the 17th, the viceroy's troops sorrounded the town, and on the next day made an attack in all directions. The English were obliged to retire within the fort. A council of war was held to determine what should be done. The military officers, of whom no one understood his duty, said, there was no safety but in flight. It was resolved to embark first the women and then the men, early the next morning, on board the vessels which were lying off the fort, and to abandon the town. The Governor, Mr. Drake, and the military commandant, were among the first to fly; in a few moments, every boat was gone, some to the ships, and some over to Howrah; while more than half the garrison and gentlemen were left behind. As soon as it was known that the Governor had deserted his post, the rest assembled and chose Mr. Holwell for their chief. Signals were made to the ships to come up and rescue the garrison, which might easily have been done, but during the two days in which the fort held out, those on board never made one effort to save

those whom they had abandoned. On the night of the 19th, the enemy set fire to the houses round the fort. On the 20th the attack was renewed with more vigour than before. Mr. Holwell, seeing resistance vain, sent a letter to Manik chand, the viceroy's general, to sue for peace. At four, in the afternoon one of the enemy's troops made a signal to desist from firing, and the English, fancying that a reply had arrived from the general, stopped the fire of their guns. But they had no sooner done so, than the enemy rushed up close to the walls, and began to scale them. In an hour the fort was in their possession, and they set to work to pillage the houses. At five, Seraj-ood-dowla arrived in a dooly; and the Europeans were brought before him. Mr. Holwell had his hands bound, but the viceroy ordered them to be loosed, assuring him that not a hair of his head should be touched. He held a durbar in the open air, and ordered Krishnadas to be brought before him. As one of the reasons given for this attack on the English, was, that they had harboured this man, it was supposed that he would be severly punished, but the Nabob actually bestowed a dress of honour upon him.

Between six and seven the Nabob returned to his camp, leaving the fort in charge of a native officer. There were at the time one hundred and forty six European prisoners, including one lady and twelve wounded officers. The commandant sought for some place where they might be placed in security for the night. There was in the fort, at this time a room, eighteen feet long by fourteen, with only one window at each end to admit air, in which turbulent soldiers used to be confined. Into this small chamber, the Mahomedans

thrust all the European prisoners in the hottest month in the year. Nothing could exceed the horrors of that night. The prisoners were soon oppressed with unquenchable thirst; and the water they received from the guards only served to make them frantic. Every one struggled to reach the window to catch a breath of air; in their anguish they entreated the guards to fire on them and end their misery. Gradually one after another sunk down dead on the floor; and the survivors standing on this heap of bodies, had more room to breathe in; and thus a few survived. When the door was opened in the morning, only twenty-three were found alive, out of one hundred and forty-six. This was the "Massacre of the Black Hole," which gave such deep horror to the capture of Calcutta. It is this calamity that keeps the event fresh in the memory of men in all countries; and Seraj-ood-dowla has passed as a monster of cruelty chiefly on this account. But he knew nothing of this deed of darkness till the next morning; the whole blame rest upon the Hindu, Manik Chand, who had been left in charge of the fort for the night. When the Nabob was informed of the circumstance on the morning of the 21st June, he manifested the greatest indifference. Mr. Holwell was one of those who were confined in the Black Hole, and survived; and he was sent for and requested to point out the treasury. In the same year in which Calcutta was taken, and the English expelled from Bengal, namely in 1756, the Danes obtained a grant of land, and laid the foundation of the town of Serampore.

On his arrival at Moorshedabad, Seraj-ood-dowla, now flushed with success, determined to

renew the attack on his cousin, Sukut Jung, the governor of Poorneah. He directed his army to be assembled and to march against Poorneah. Sokut Jung, on his side, put his army on the march; but he knew nothing of war, and was above receiving any advice. While the battle was raging, Sokut Jung retired to his tent to amuse himself with his women, and became so drunk that he could not sit erect. His officers came after him, and insisted on his placing himself at the head of the army. He had no sooner arrived there, than a ball from the opposite army struck him in the forehead, and he sunk dead in the howdah. His troops, on seeing him fall broke their ranks and fled. Two days after, Mohun Lall, the viceroy's general, took possession of Poorneah; and all the treasure found in it, amounting to nearly ninety lakhs of rupees, together with Sakut Jung's seraglio, was sent to Moorshedabad.

Mr. Drake, after he had so shamefully deserted his countrymen, sent to request succour from Madras, and remained with his companions on the ships, near the mouth of the river, where many died of disease. When the news of the calamities which had befallen Calcutta reached Madras, the governor and council were filled with alarm. They saw nothing but danger on every side, for a war with France was daily expected. They immediately fitted out a fleet, and collected a small army; the former under the command of Admiral Watson; the latter under Col. Clive. Clive had come out to India thirteen years before at the age of eighteen, in the Civil Service; but having a turn for a military life, he entered the army and distinguished himself as a great Sol-

dier. At the time of his departure for Bengal he was only thirty-one years of age; young in years, but old in experience. The army, which was sent to recover this town, consisted of 900 Europeans and 1500 native sepoys. On the 20th December they reached Fulta. On the 28th they advanced to Mayapore, where the Moguls had a fort at that time. Col. Clive landed all his troops during the night, but his native guides misled him, and it was sunrise before they came in the vicinity of the fort. Manikchand, the viceroy's general, came down unexpectedly upon them from Calcutta. But Clive soon brought his guns to bear on the enemy, and a ball having passed through Manikchand's howdha, he took fright and fled to Moorshedabad. Clive now marched up by land to Calcutta, but the ships arrived before him, and cannonaded it for two hours, when it surrendered to the Admiral on the 2nd of January, 1757. Thus was Calcutta regained with the loss of scarcely a man. Two days after the retaking of Calcutta, therefore, he sent ships and troops up to Hooghly, which was then a wealthy place of great trade, and captured it. As soon as Seraj-ood-dowla heard that Clive had taken and plundered his port of Hooghly, he flew into a rage, and ordered his army to march instantly to Calcutta. Clive's army mustered about 700 Europeans and 1200 natives; the Nabob's troops numbered about 40,000. Seraj-ood-dowla had no sooner arrived, than Clive sent to offer him peace, and he declared his willingness to make a treaty. Several meetings took place between the English envoys and the Nabob; but though his professions were peaceful, they saw that he was not sincere. His arrival had alarmed

the natives arround Calcutta, so that they fled, and provisions began to be scarce with the English. Clive found it necessary, therefore, at once to attack the Nabob. He proceeded on board the Admiral's ship on the night of the 4th February, and procured six hundred sailors from him. The whole force consisted of 1350 Europeans and 800 sepoys ; and with these Clive boldly proceeded to attack an army twenty times as numerous. Just as the day dawned, one of those fogs so common at the close of cold season, arose, so dense that no one could see three yards before him. The English, however marched through the enemy's camp, engaging them as they went. They lost two hundred and twenty in killed and wounded, but the Nabob far greater number. This bold attack frightend him beyond measure. Clive made preparations for another attack, but Seraj-ood-dowla was now heartily sick of the war, and agreed to a treaty, which was signed on the 19th February. By it, the English obtained all the privileges they had formerly enjoyed ; their merchandize, in its passage through the country, was exempted from duty ; and they had leave to fortify Calcutta, and to erect a mint. These terms were very favourable to him, considering that the English were now victorious ; but Clive knew that war had broken out in Europe between the English and the French. He was anxious, therefore, to free himself entirely from the Nabob, before he proceeded to attack the French.

Clive saw that Calcutta could not be safe while the French kept so large a garrison at Chandernagore. He knew that Seraj-ood-dowla had made peace only through fear, and that he would declare war on the first occasion. Indeed

he had been all along intriguing with the French, and had sent some troops to their assistance. Admiral Watson at length wrote him a letter to say, that all the troops which he had expected, were arrived, and that he would kindle such a war in his country, that all the waters in the Ganges would not put it out. This alarmed Seraj-ood-dowla to such a degree, that on the 10th. March 1757, he wrote a letter of apology, which ended with these words, 'whatsoever you think right, do.' Clive took this for leave to attack the French, and immediately marched up his army by land to Chandernagore, while Admiral Watson proceeded up the river with his ships, and anchored them off the town. It was the severest struggle in which the English had yet been engaged in India. The place fell after a seige of nine days. The French Governor, to prevent the progress of the English ships, had blocked up part of the river by sinking boats, but had left one narrow channel open, which was known to but few. One Terreneau, an officer in the French service, disgusted for some cause with Renaud, the Governor, went over to Clive and pointed out the channel to him. This man afterwards made a little money in the English service, and sent some of it home to his aged father in France; but he returned it with contempt, as coming from a traitor. This so affected Terreneau that he hung himself with his own handkerchief at his own door.

Clive lost no time after the treaty in putting up a fortification which no native army should be able to take. He accordingly began the present fort, in the year 1757, and pushed it on with vigour. A mint was also erected in the

same year, and the first English coin of Bengal was struck on the 19th August, 1757.

Clive, having now established the English interests by force, saw clearly that they could be maintained only by the same means. He was anxious that the French should not again obtain a footing in Bengal. Bussy, a French commander in the Deccan, had made large conquests and acquired much power. While Seraj-ood-dowla was professing friendship to the English, he was inviting Bussy to come up and attack them, and some of his letters were intercepted by Clive. The English felt that there could be no security for them, while the head-strong youth continued to govern Bengal. While they were turning over in their own minds what they should do to secure themselves, some of the officers of the Nabob's court addressed them. They resolved, however, at all hazards to depose Seraj-ood-dowla, and they sent secretly to ask the assistance of the English. The prime movers were the powerful Setts, the imperial bankers, Meer Jaffer, the treasurer of the army, and a commandant in it, Omichand and Khoja Wazeed, both wealthy merchants. It was these men who besought Clive to bring up his English troops, to depose Seraj-ood-dowla, and place Meer Jaffer on the throne. The members of Council, who were almost all weak men, hesitated to join confederacy. But Clive had a strong and daring mind; and difficulties only served to increase his ardour.

He carried on this secret negotiation with the Nabob's officers during the months of April and May through Mr. Watts, the Resident at Moorshedabad, so secretly that, Seraj-ood-dowla never suspected it,—but once. And then he called

Meer Jaffer, and made him swear on the Koran, that he would be faithful to him. When every thing was ripe for action, the plan was nearly defeated by Omichand. He came one evening to Mr. Watts, and said, that unless he was promised in writing thirty lakhs of rupees more, he would go instantly and discover the whole plot to the viceroy. Mr. Watts endeavoured to soothe the traitor to gain time, and wrote off without delay to Calcutta. Clive was confounded at the news. He looked on Omichand as a public enemy, who was endeavouring to extort money by villainous means ; and he thought that any artifice to defeat his villainy, was just. He ordered Mr. Watts to make the promise. He drew up a double treaty, in one of which the thirty lakhs were promised to Omichand ; in the other, they were not. The former only was shewn to him, and it served to quiet his mind. An arrangement was now made with Meer Jaffer that he should separate his troops from those of his master, and join the English as they advanced.

Every thing being ready, Clive wrote a letter to Seraj-ood-dowla, and recounting the injuries he had done the English, charged him with having violated the treaty. He stated that the compensation he had promised had not been paid, and that he had invited the French to come in and expel the English. He ended by saying, that he was coming in person to Moorshedabad to submit their differences to the judgment of the chief men of the court. The viceroy was alarmed with the style of this letter, and still more with the news that Clive was advancing; and he marched down with his army to Plassey. Clive set his troops in motion early in June, 1757. On the

17th they reached Cutwa, and the next day invaded and took the fort. On the 19th the rains set in with great violence. Clive was in doubt whether to cross over and fight the Nabob or to return; for there was no sign of Meer Jaffer, and not even a letter from him. He called a council of war, and they determined against fighting. Clive at first approved of their judgment, but after having weighed the matter closely, he resolved to hazard all, and engage. He saw well, that if he should now turn back after having advanced so far, the interests of the English would be ruined in Bengal. At sun-rise, on the 22nd June, the army began to cross the river, and the troops were all landed on the opposite bank by four in the afternoon. They marched on without halting, and at once in the morning of the 23rd, reached the grove of Plassey. The engagement begun as soon as the morning dawned. Clive looked out with anxiety for Meer Jaffer and his troops, but still there was no appearance of them. The Nabob, whose army amounted to 15,000 horse and 35,000 foot, remained in the rear in his tents, surrounded by flatterers, while Meer Madun pushed on the battle. Meer Jaffer, who was there with his troops, did not engage. About mid-day a cannon ball struck Meer Madun, and carried away his legs. He was conveyed into the Nabob's tent, and expired in his presence. The Nabob was now thoroughly alarmed, and began to suspect all his servants of treachery. He sent for Meer Jaffer, and placing his turban at his feet, begged in the most abject manner, that for the sake of his grandfather, he would forgive him and stand by him in the hour of need. Jaffer, promised to

be faithful; and as a proof of it, advised the Nabob to recall his troops, as the day was far advanced. To-morrow, said he, with the blessing of God, we will draw up the troops together, and prepare for the battle. Mohun Lall, the Nabob's general, was fully engaged with the English when he received orders to fall back, which he obeyed with reluctance. His retreat damped the minds of the soldiers, and they began to fly in every direction; and Clive thus obtained a complete and easy victory. Seraj-ood-dowla mounted a camel and marching all night with two thousand horse, at eight the next morning reached Moorshedabad. He then summoned his officers and ministers to attend him; but they departed, each one to his own house; and even his own father-in-law forsook him. For a whole day he remained almost alone and deserted in his palace, and then took a desperate resolution. In the dead of the night he placed his consort and some favourites on covered carts, with as much gold and as many jewels as they could contain, and at three in the morning fled to Bhogwangola. There he embarked on some boats and proceeded up the river, intending to join Mr. Law, the French general, to whom he had written to come down from Patna.

In the battle of Plassey, which settled the destiny of India, the English lost only twenty of their European troops, and fifty of their native sepoys, in killed and wounded. After the engagement, Meer Jaffer visited Clive, and congratulated him on his victory. They then marched together into Moorshedabad; and Meer Jaffer took possession of the royal palace. The chief men of the city and the officers of state assembled there. A

darbar was held, and Clive, rising from his seat, took Meer Jaffer by the hand, and seating him on the throne, saluted him as Nabob of Bengal, Behar and Orissa. They then proceeded to the treasury, with several European gentlemen, and Ramchand, Clive's dewan, and Nabakrishna his moonshee, and found it to contain more than two crores of rupees in gold and silver. But the historian of those times states, that this was only the other treasury; that there was an inner treasury kept in the female apartments, which was carefully concealed from Clive's knowledge. In this repository, it is said, that there were not less than eight crores of rupees in gold, silver and jewels. He affirms that Meer Jaffer, Emirbeg Khan, Ramchand and Nabakrishna, appropriated this wealth to themselves.

The English had now recovered from their misfortunes. It now remained to make good their losses from the treasury of Moorshedabad. It was agreed that one hundred lakhs should be paid to the Company for the public losses; fifty lakhs to the English gentlemen who had lost their property by the capture of Calcutta; twenty lakhs to the natives, and seven to the Armenians. Besides these sums, a large gratuity was paid to the army and navy. Nor were the public officers who had raised Meer Jaffer to the throne, forgotten. Clive received sixteen lakhs of rupees, and the other members of council in smaller proportions. It was also stipulated that the English should enjoy all the privileges they had heretofore obtained; that the land within the Mahratta ditch, and six hundred yards beyond it, should belong to them; that the Zemindaree of the country, south of Calcutta, as far as Culpee,

should be given to the Company, and that the French should never be permitted to settle in the province.

Seraj-oo-dowla, after leaving Bhogwangola, landed at Rajmahal to cook some food for his wife and his daughter, near the hut of a fakeer, whom he had formerly oppressed. This man immediately gave information of his arrival to those who were then in pursuit of him; and they came up and seized him. He used the most humble entreaties to these men whom a week before he would scarcely have spoken to; but deaf to his cries, they plundered him of all his gold and jewels, and conveyed him back to Moorshedabad. When he was brought to the city, Meer Jaffer had taken his usual nap after a large dose of opium. His son, Meerun, one of the most profligate men of the age, hearing that Seraj-ood-dowla was come, ordered him to be confined near his own apartment; and in an hour or two proposed to his friends to go and murder him; but they one and all refused. At length a wretch of the name of Mahmedy-beg, who had been bred up by Aly Verdy Khan, offered to do the bloody deed. As soon as he entered the room, the unfortunate prince, knowing his errand, exclaimed in a tone of remorse, I must die to atone for Hussein Kooly Khan's murder. He had no sooner pronounced these words, than the assassin lifted his sabre, and cut him down with repeated strokes. He fell dead at his feet, exclaiming with his last breath, 'Hussein Kooly is now avenged.' After his death, his body was hacked to pieces, thrown carelessly across an elephant, and carried through the crowded streets, of the capital, to the burial ground. It was

remarked at the time, that the driver, having occasion to stop for some purpose or other, the elephant stood on the very spot, where eighteen months before, Seraj-ood-dowla had butchered Hussein Kooly Khan, and that some drops of blood from his own mangled carcass fell on the very ground where he had shed innocent blood.

Meer Jaffer.

The authority of Meer Jaffer was acknowledged at once throughout the three provinces. But it was very soon perceived that he had no talents for business, and that he was weak, cruel and rapacious. His first wish was to plunder the Hindu officers of government who had amassed wealth under the former viceroy. He cast his eyes upon Rajah Roy Doorlub, the prime minister. It was Roy Doorlub who proposed to the conspirators that Meer Jaffer should be made Nabob in his stead; yet Meer Jaffer now sought his ruin. Rajah Ramnarayan had long been deputy governor of Behar, and the viceroy determined to remove and plunder him. Rajah Ram-sing, the governor of Midnapore, was also alienated, because the viceroy had thrown his brother into confinement. Rajah Adul-sing, the deputy of Poorneah, through the evil counsels of the court, broke out into rebellion. Thus within five months after Jaffer's accession, three revolts burst out in as many provinces. Jaffer, though nominally the soobadar of the three provinces, was in reality nothing; Clive was every thing. Clive behaved with so much wisdom and moderation, that as long as he was at the head of affairs, matters went on smoothly.

A new enemy now appeared on the confines

of Bengal. Shah Allum, the son of the unfortunate Emperor of Delhi, had quarrelled with his father, and forming a league with the soobadars of Allahabad and Oude, came down with a rabble of soldiery to invade Behar. The Emperor wrote to Clive, ordering him to seize his rebellious son, wherever he could be found, and to deliver him up. Meer Jaffer's troops, who were mutinous for want of pay, were in no condition to meet this invasion. He applied anew to Clive, who marched up with speed to Patna, in 1758. But before his arrival the affair was already settled. The Prince and the soobadar of Allahabad invaded Patna for nine days, and would probably have taken it, but on the one hand, they heard, that the English were approaching; on the other, that the soobadar of Oude, taking advantage of the absence of the soobadar of Allahabad, had treacherously seized his capital. On the receipt of this intelligence, he left the Prince to shift for himself, and hastened to defend his own dominion; but he perished in the conflict. The Prince's troops now deserted him rapidly, and he had soon but three hundred men to follow his fortunes. He was reduced to such distress, that he sent to beg alms of Clive, who generously sent him a thousand gold mohurs. Meer Jaffer being thus delivered from his fears, made Clive an Omrah, as a token of gratitude, and granted him as a jaygeer, the quit rent which the Company had agreed to pay for the Zemindary of Calcutta. It was said to have been worth three lakhs of rupees a year.

Soon after these transactions, Meer Jaffer paid a visit to Clive at Calcutta, where he was received with the highest honours. While he

was residing there, a large Dutch armament, consisting of seven ships, and containing fifteen hundred troops, anchored at the mouth of the river. It was soon discovered that they had not come without the consent of the Nabob. He had been for some time intriguing with the Dutch at Chinsurah, with the hope of bringing in a body of European troops, who might counteract the influence of the English.

Clive was placed in great dilemma by the arrival of this force. The English and the Dutch were at peace; and his own European troops were not more than a third of those which the Dutch had now under their command. He acted, however, with his usual vigour and fearlessness. He strengthened the works at Tanna, below Calcutta, but was still resolved not to strike, the first blow. The Dutch vessels came up to the fort, and immediately commenced an attack but were repulsed. They then dropped down and landed seven hundred European and eight hundred Malay troops, who marched up by land on the right bank of the river towards Chinsurah. Clive had previously sent up his little army under Col. Forde, to take post between that place and Chandernagore. The dutch army advanced, and encamped two miles south of Chinsurah. Forde knowing that the two nations were at peace, wrote for a distinct order in council before he attacked them. Clive received his letter while he was playing at cards. , Without quitting the table he wrote this reply in pencil: "Dear Forde, fight them immediately; I will send you the order in Council to-morrow." Forde no sooner received this order than he fell upon the Dutch forces, who were routed in half an hour. About the

same time the ships which had come into the river, were captured by the English, and the enterprise ended in smoke. The Dutch hastened to make an apology to Clive. They agreed to the expenses of the war, and he released all their ships. Soon after these events he embarked for England, in February, 1760, rich in glory and in money, but with a constitution impaired by the great labors of three years. He left the Government in the hands of Mr. Vansittart.

The country was far from being in peace. The old Nabob, Meer Jaffer, had resigned the power of the government into the hands of his son, Meerun. He disgusted all the public officers by his insolence, and the people by his oppression; while his cruelties made the country forget the crimes of Seraj-ood-dowla. The son of the Emperor of Delhi, Shah Allum, was encouraged by the general discontent, to march a second time into Behar, and Kadim Hussein Khan, the governor of Poorneah, prepared to join him with his troops. As soon as the Prince had crossed the Karamnassa, the boundary line of Behar, he heard that the Vizier of the Empire, the cruel Imad-ool-moolk, had put his father to death. By this event he became Emperor of Hindustan, and appointed the soobadar of Oude, the Vizier of the empire. He marched down upon Patna, and the brave Ramnarayan put it into a state of defence, and wrote to Moorshedabad, earnestly entreating that troops might be sent to his assistance. Col. Calliaud, who had succeeded to the command of the army, immediately set out with his English troops, accompanied by Meerun with the Nabob's soldiery. This odious wretch had already put to death two of his own officers,

and cut off the heads of two of the women of his seraglio with his own sabre. The two daughters of Aly Verdy Khan, Ghesitty Begum and Aman Begum, the widow of Newaish Mahomed, and of Syud Ahmed, had been for some time living in obscurity at Dacca. Meerun sent one of his own servants, with orders to put them into a boat, on pretence of conducting them to Moorshedabad, and to sink them and the boats. These orders were faithfully executed.

On the 20th, the emperor attacked the united army. Meerun's fifteen thousand horse were soon broken and fled, but Col. Calliaud made a steady and bold attack on the emperor, and speedily routed his troops. Shah Allum was now advised by his general to make sudden march through the hills, and to take Moorshedabad by surprise. Col. Calliaud marched down in pursuit of him. The English offered battle to the emperor, but he took a sudden panic and marched back to patna, to which he laid close siege. Capt. Knox arrived with a few troops in Patna. He had been sent up by Col. Calliaud. The emperor's troops were completely defeated; and he set his camp on fire and took to flight. A day or two after, Kadim Hussein Khan came up to Hajypore with the troops of Poorneah, and prepared to attack Patna. Capt. Knox, with a very small force of European and native troops, gave him a complete defeat. This was one of the most gallant actions fought in this war, and gave the natives the highest opinion of the English. On the night of the 2nd of July, 1760, a violent thunder storm occurred, and while Meerun was employed hearing stories in his tent, the lightning struck him and two of his attendants

dead. Col. Calliaud was obliged by this circumstances to give up the pursuit and to return to Patna, where he put his troops into quarters for the season.

Meerun, though profligate, was the main stay of his father's government. The voluptuous and weak old man, now lost the little reason he had ever possessed. The administration fell into disorder. The troops surrounded the place and became clamorous for their arrears. Meer Cossim, the son-in-law of the Nabob, came forward and promised to satisfy them from his own purse. The Nabob had sent Meer Cossim on a mission to calcutta, where his talents became known to Mr. Vansittart and Mr. Hastings, who now directed the affairs of the Company. The Governor proposed to invest him with the office of Deputy Nazim of the province, and to this Meer Cossim readily agreed. Mr. Vansittart and Mr. Hastings now proceeded to Moorshedabad with a body of troops, and made the proposal to Meer Jaffer; but he was very reluctant to agree to it. Mr. Vansittart was, therefere obliged to act with vigour; he ordered the place to be occupied with English troops; and Meer Jaffer, on seeing this, submitted. He was offered a residence either at Moorshedabad or Calcutta. He chose, therefore, to retire to Calcutta. He had taken into his seraglio a common dancing girl, who entirely governed him, and who afterwads became so famous, under the name of Munny Begum. This woman and Meer Jaffer, went into the inner apartments, and took away those matchless jewels which had been collected at Moorshedabad by so many princes; after which they proceeded with a guard of honour to Calcutta.

Meer Cossim Aly.

Meer Cossim became the soobadar of Bengal and Behar by the election of the English, on the 4th of March, 1760. In gratitude for this service, he made over to the Company the district of Burdwan, and he gave the Members of Council at Calcutta twenty lakhs of Rupees, which they divided among themselves. He was a man of great talent and energy. He reduced the expenditure of his Court; he looked carefully into the accounts, and having found out what sums the officers had taken to themselves in Meer Jaffer's lazy reign, caused them to be refunded. He not only made the zeminders pay up all arrears, but he formed a new valuation of the estates. In fact, he assessed the country far beyond what it was able to bear. By these means his treasury was soon filled; and he was enabled to discharge all arrears. His own troops were regularly paid up, and were thus brought under his control. Though he had been raised to power by the English, his chief aim was to render himself independent of them. He disciplined his troops after the model of the English. He placed at the head of his army an Armenian, born at Ispahan, in Persia, named Gurghin Khan, or Gregory Khan. He was a man of very unusual talents. He was originally only a seller of cloth; but having a great military genius, was taken into Meer Cossim's service, and he steadily pursued the plan of making his master independent of the English. In order to mature his plans far from the eye of the English, Meer Cossim forsook Moorshedabad, and made Monghyr his capital.

As soon as the rains of 1760 were over, Major

Carnac advanced against the emperor, who still hovered over the borders of Behar, and completely defeated him. After the battle, Carnac sent Rajah Setabroy to offer him peace, to which he very readily consented, and the English general paid his respects to him in his camp. Meer Cossim went in haste to Patna, to prevent any mischief to himself. The emperor invested him with the soobadary of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, and he promised to pay twenty-four lakhs of rupees a year of tribute. The emperor offered to grant the English the dewanny of the three provinces, whenever they might desire it.

Cossim Ally had brought all the zemindars of the country into complete subjection, except Ramnarayan, the Governor of Patna. He had not settled his accounts for three years. The Nabob affirmed that he could not pay up the arrears due to the English, till Ramnarayan had paid his balances. There were at this time two parties in the Council at Calcutta, the one opposed to Meer Cossim ; the other, at the head of which was the governor, Mr. Vansittart, favourable to him. Mr. Vansittart's party at length prevailed. The English troops were recalled from Patna, and Ramnarayan was left to the mercy of the viceroy. He lost no time in seizing and imprisoning him. This was one of the greatest errors in Mr. Vansittart's government, because it destroyed the confidence which the natives had in the protection of the English.

Hitherto Meer Cossim had managed the government with great success ; but we have now to describe how he fell, through the rapacity of the Company's servants. In India, a large portion of the public revenue arose from the duties which

was levied on articles passing from one part of the country to the other. When the English Company obtained the privilege of trading, upon the payment of a *pescush* of 3,000 Rupees a year, their goods were exempted from these duties. This privilege included only the public trade of the Company. But when the English had set up a Nabob of their own, and become powerful in the country, the Company's servants, both civil and military, resolved to trade without paying any duties at all. Their gomastas stuck up an English flag wherever they chose, and oppressed both the native merchants, and the officers of government. The authority of the Nabob's government was destroyed; the native merchants were ruined; and the English gentlemen made very large fortunes. The revenues of the viceroy were also diminished. Meer Cossim made many complaints to the Council about these grievances; and threatened at length to throw up the government if a stop was not put to them.

Mr. Vansittart and Mr. Hastings endeavoured to remove these evils; but as the other members of Council were making fortunes by these abuses, all their efforts were useless. Meer Cossim now began to consider the English in the light of his enemies, and there was every prospect of war between the two parties. Mr. Vansittart endeavoured to soothe him, and proposed that both the natives and English should pay the same duty, viz. nine percent. on the transit of all goods. The Nabob very reluctantly agreed to this. Mr. Vansittart hastened to Calcutta to propose this measure in council; Meer Cossim, not waiting for their consent immediately sent orders to all his officers of customs, to levy nine percent. on all the

English trade. The English refused to pay it, and put the native officers under arrest. They all declared that they would only pay a duty of two and a half percent. on the article of salt. Meer Cossim was at this time absent on an expedition to Nepal, in which he did not succeed. On his return, he heard that the council had refused to pay the duties, and had seized his officers. He immediately put his threat into execution, and abolished all duties through out Bengal and Behar. The members of council were incensed beyond measure at this; they maintained that the Nabob ought to exact the old duties from his own subjects, and to allow the English to trade free. The debate grew warm. It was resolved at length to send Mr. Amyatt and Mr. Hay to Meer Cossim to insist on his laying the former duties on the native trade. On their arrival, it appeared at first that matters might be settled, but the conduct of Mr. Ellis, the chief at Patna, the most violent of all the men in the service, put out all hopes of peace. The Nabob dismissed Mr. Amyatt, but detained Mr. Hay, as a hostage for his own officers who were in custody. Mr. Ellis surprised and took the city of Patna. But a large body of the viceroy's troops coming up, the town was retaken. Mr. Ellis, and all the Europeans were placed in confinement. Cossim Aly ordered all the Europeans at all the outfactories to be seized, and Mr. Amyatt to be stopped on his return to Calcutta. That gentleman was passing Moorshedabad when he was killed. The great bankers of the house of Jagat Sett, at Moorshedabad, were supposed to be friendly to the English; Meer Cossim, therefore ordered them to Monghyr anb placed them under restraint.

When news of Mr. Amyatt's death, and of

the confinement of Mr. Ellis and his companions reached Calcutta, the Council determined on instant war. The English army was ordered to take the field. At the same time they determined to raise Meer Jaffer again to the throne, on his agreeing to allow the old duties to be imposed on the native trade, and the private trade of the European gentlemen to be exempted. The old man, seventy-two years of age, and scarcely able to move for the leprosy, left Calcutta and went up with the English army which now set out for Moorshedabad.

Owing to discord among the viceroy's generals, his troops were defeated on the 16th July, 1763, at Cutwa ; on the 24th the English stormed the lines at Mootyjeel, and took Moorshedabad. On the 2nd August, another battle was fought at Geriah, near Sooty, in which Meer Cossim's army was agin beaten. During these transactions he had remained at Monghyr ; he now resolved to join his army of Oodwa. But before his departure he put to death all his native prisoners. Rajah Ram narayan, the former governor of Patna, is said to have been drowned in the river with a bag of sand. At the same time he put to death Rajah Rajballab, the former deputy governor of Dacca, with all his sons, including, we suppose, Krishnadas, whom we have already mentioned, the Roy Royan Rajah Omed Sing, Rajah Boonead Sing, Rajah Futteh Sing, and many others. The two wealthy bankers, the Setts, were likewise brought out and thrown from a tower of the fort at Monghyr into the river. Early in October the English attacked his camp and defeated him. A day or two after his defeat, he retired to Monghyr. but finding that he could not withstand the English army,

which was in pursuit of him, he fled with his troops to Patna. The English gentlemen who had fallen into his hands, he dragged along with him. Gurghin Khan had a brother in Calcutta, the well known Khoja Petroos, who was an intimate friend of Mr. Vansittart and Mr. Hastings. Petroos wrote privately to Gurghin to entreat him to leave the service of the Nabob, and, if possible, to seize his person. The Nabob's head spy discovered the correspondence; and at one in the morning, waked his master and told him that his general was a traitor. Within twenty-four hours after, Gurghin, the Armenian general, one of the greatest men of that age, was a corpse.

Meer Cossim now fled in haste to Patna. Monghyr fell into the hands of the English, and he found that he must leave Patna likewise, and quit the country. His rage against the English now knew no bounds; and he resolved before he left Patna, that all his prisoners should die. He ordered his officers to go to the house where they were confined and put them to death. Forty-eight English gentlemen and a hundred and fifty soldiers fell in this massacre at Patna. Among the gentlemen who perished were, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Hay, and Mr. Lushington, all members of council. On the 6th of November, 1763, Patna fell into the hands of the English, and Meer Cossim fled to the soobadar of Oude; and thus the war was concluded in about four months. The next year, on the 22nd October, the English general met the troops of Oude at Buxar, and completely defeated them.

Meer Jaffer.

Meer Jaffer, after having been raised a second time to the throne of Bengal, found it impossible to pay all the sums which he had promised the English. He was now very much advanced in life. His disease gained ground on him, and he expired at Moorshedabad in January, 1765, at the age of seventy-four. The members of council received large sums of money from Nujum-ood-dowla, the son of Meer Jaffer, by Munny Begum, and made him Nabob. With him they formed a new treaty; they took the military defence of the country into their own hands, and obliged him to appoint a Naib Nazim to manage the civil and criminal affairs of the country. Mohomed Reza Khan, who was a relative of Aly Verdy Khan, was appointed to the office.

Lord Clive, Governor.

When the Court of Directors heard of the disorders, which had arisen from the evil conduct of their servants in India, of the war with Meer Cossim and the Vizier, and of the massacre at Patna, they became very much alarmed. They therefore begged Clive, who had been created a nobleman by the king, to go out and retrieve their affairs. He was appointed Commander-in-Chief and Governor of Bengal, with full powers to act. The Directors informed him that the trade of their servants, the cause of so much misery, must be closed. They ordered that all their servants, civil and military, should execute covenants and bind themselves to pay all presents they might receive, above 4,000 Rupees into the public treasury; and that they should receive no present

above 1,000 Rs. without the leave of the government.

Lord Clive landed in Calcutta on the 3rd of May, 1765, and found that the dangers which had alarmed the Court of Directors, were blown over. But he found also that the government was in the utmost disorder. No man, not even the members of Council, sought the good of the Company; the object of every one in the service was to amass a rapid fortune, by whatever means, and to return speedily to England. Injustice prevailed in every department; the natives had been oppressed, till the name of European stunk in the nostrils of the people. Clive immediately on his arrival, determined to carry the orders of the Directors into execution. The Council endeavoured to bully him, as they had done Mr. Vansittart, but Clive was made of different stuff. He insisted that they should all sign the covenants against taking presents, and those who refused, he immediately dismissed. Some signed them; others who had gained, as they thought, enough out of the country, returned home; but all became his enemies.

On the 24th of June Clive left Calcutta for the western Provinces, determined to make peace, for the war was eating up all the revenues. A new treaty was made with Nujum-ood-dowla, by which the management of the country was made over to the English, and fifty lakhs of Rupees a year were allotted for the support of his Court. This sum was to be expended with the advice of a council, consisting of Mahomed Reza Khan, Rajah Doorlub Ram, and Jugut Sett. Soon after a treaty was made with the Nabob of Oude. On the 12th August, the Emperor invested Lord Clive with the dewanny of Bengal, Behar and Orissa,

on account of the Company, and he promised to pay two lakhs of rupees a month out of the revenues to the Emperor This was the most important event which had happened to the English since the battle of Plassey. By this gift of the Emperor, they became legally possessed of the provinces in the eyes of the people; and the Nabob of Moorshedabad became a cypher. On the 7th September, Clive returned to Calcutta.

The private trade in which the servants of the Company had been engaged was the source of very great evils. Clive saw that the pay of the Civil servants was very miserable, and that it would be made up by improper means, he resolved to continue the trade, but on a better principle. He formed a Commercial Society, which was to carry on a trade in salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco. A large duty of 35 percent. was to be paid to the Company's treasury, and the profits were to be divided among the whole service, civil and military. As soon as the Directors heard of this new society, they condemned it in very severe language, and ordered that none of their servants should touch the internal trade of the country.

The great expenses of the government in India had hitherto swallowed up all the revenues. When Lord Clive was asked in England how it happened that the Company, with such an income, was always poor, he replied, that every one who was allowed to make out a bill against them, made a fortune. But the chief source of expense was the army. While the English troops had been employed in fighting in the Nabob's name, he allowed them a gratuity, which was called double batta. This large allowance they had so long received, that they at length came to con-

sider it as their right. He at once issued orders that the double batta should cease. The military officers took great offence at this. They carried on secret correspondence with each other; and resolved, one and all, to lay down their commissions on the same day. He suspected that there was a general confederacy throughout the army. Clive, however, acted with his usual energy. He ordered up officers from Madras. The ringleaders were seized, dismissed the service, and sent back to England. By this severity, he reduced the army again to obedience; and thus delivered government from the two greatest dangers which it had ever felt.

Lord Clive had now been twenty months in India. In these various labours, his health had greatly suffered, and he was obliged to return to England. He embarked in February, 1767, that is about ten years after he had first landed in Bengal. In these ten years, he may be said to have founded the British empire in India. He experienced the utmost ingratitude from all parties in the state; and he, who had founded this vast empire, was himself worried to death by the malignity of his foes. He died a violent death, on the 22nd November, 1774.

Mr. Verelst and Mr. Cartier.

The English had now acquired the Dewanny; but they did not know how to manage them. The former soobadars had left these affairs in the hands of Hindus, because they were so patient, and so able in accounts. They were obliged therefore to allow every thing to remain on the old footing. Rajah Setabroy was appointed the Dewan of Behar, and resided at Patna. Mahomed

Reza Khan was Dewan of Bengal, and resided at Moorshedabad. Such was the government which existed for nearly seven years, till the year, 1772, when the English took the management of it into their own hands. During this period, there could scarcely be said to have been any government at all.

It was chiefly during these years of anarchy that the rent free tenure were created. The revenues of Bengal, were collected at Moorshedabad and not at Calcutta. The khalsa or exchequer was there. The revenue affairs of Bengal were managed by three natives, Mahomed Reza Khan, Raja Durlab Ram and Raja Kanta Sing, the brother of the celebrated Ganga Govinda Sing.

Mr. Verelst succeeded Lord Clive as Governor of Bengal in 1767. The year after, the final orders of the Court of Directors were received for abolishing the trade of their servants in salt and other commodities. But as the salaries of the European officers were very small, the Directors gave them, in addition, two and a half per cent. on the land revenues. But after the departure of Lord Clive, the affairs of the Company again began to go wrong. Large as the public income in India was, the expenditure was still larger. The deficiency in treasury became every day more alarming. Notwithstanding the prohibition of the Directors, the Government of Calcutta was obliged, after all, to open a loan in the year 1769, and to give drafts on England, and this brought the affairs of the Company to a crisis in London.

Nujum-ood-Dowlah, who had succeeded Jaffer Khan in January, 1765, as Nazir, died the next year, and Seif-ood-Dowlah was raised to the musnud. He died of small pox in 1770, and was suc-

ceeded by his brother, Mobarik-ood-Dowlah. The Directors ordered the allowance for the support of the Court to be cut down to sixteen lakhs of Rupees a year.

The year 1770 is memorable in the annals of Bengal, for the great famine which desolated it. It is impossible to describe the sufferings of the poor; one-third of the population was swept away by it. It was in this year also that the Directors ordered two Councils of revenue to be established, the one at Moorshedabad, the other at Patna to consist of civil servants.

Mr. Verelst resigned his situation of Governor in 1769, and was succeeded by Mr. Cartier. But the affairs of the Company had now been brought to the verge of ruin, by the weakness of the Calcutta government.

Mr. Hastings.

Mr. Cartier resigned the Government in 1772, and was succeeded by one of the greatest men ever employed by the Company in India, Mr. Warren Hastings. He came out in the Civil Service in 1749, at the age of eighteen, and immediately began to study the languages and the politics of the country with great diligence. In 1757, though then only twenty-six years of age, he was appointed by Clive, Resident at the Darbar at Moorshedabad. In December, 1761, Mr. Hastings came into Council in Calcutta, and alone supported Mr. Vansittart against the opposition of the other members. He was uncorrupted amidst the general depravity. Indeed, when he was going home with his friend Mr. Vansittart in 1765, he was so poor that he was obliged to borrow of strangers a small sum of money. In 1770, he was sent

out as second in Council to Madras, and effected such great reforms as to obtain the highest thanks of the Directors. When the Governor's post in Calcutta became vacant, they thought they could not give it to a more worthy individual than to Mr. Hastings, and at the age of forty he became Governor of Bengal.

He took his seat as Governor on the 13th April, and on the 14th May the Council issued a proclamation that they would manage the revenues themselves; that the European officers who collected the revenues, should be denominated Collectors, and that the land should be let for a few years; but the rent offered for the lands was so low, that they resolved to put them up to auction. At the same time, the khalsa or exchequer was removed from Moorshedabad to Calcutta that it might be under the eye of the Governor. Two courts were established in each district. In the criminal courts sat the collector with the Cazee and Mooftie; in the civil court sat likewise the Collector, assisted by the Dewan, and other officers. Two courts of Appeal were at the same time established in Calcutta, the Sudder Dewanny, for civil, and the Sudder Nizamut Adawlut, for criminal causes. The *chout*, or the forth part of the amount of every cause brought into court, which the judge had hitherto recieved, was abolished; heavy fines were forbidden; and the power which a creditor had of confining his debtor at his own will, was taken away. All civil causes under ten rupees were referred to the head farmer of each purgunnah.

The Directors attributed the loss of their revenues in Bengal to the evil practices of Mahomed Reza Khan. He was suspected not only of

having secreted the public revenue, but having oppressed the people. They sent out orders that he should be put under arrest, and sent down with all his family to Calcutta; and that all his papers should be seized. Mr. Hastings had taken his seat in Council only ten days, when these orders reached him late at night. The following morning, he wrote to Mr. Middleton, the resident at Moorshedabad, to send Mahomed Reza Khan to Calcutta. He was accordingly put on board of boats with all his family, Mr. Middleton took charge of his office.

As there were the same suspicions of misconduct respecting Rajah Setabroy, the Naib Dewan of Behar, he was likewise brought down to Calcutta. His examination was soon completed. Nothing was found against him, and he was acquitted with honour. The Council bestowed an honorary dress on him and made him the Roy Royan of Behar. But the disgrace which he had suffered, broke his heart. On his return to Patna, he pined away and died; and his son, Rajah Kalyan Singh was immediately invested with his office.

The trial of Mahomed Reza Khan was more prolonged. The infamous Nanda-koomar was set up to accuse him. After an investigation, however, which lasted two years, he was declared innocent; but he was not restored to the public service. On his removal from Moorshedabad, his office in the Nizamut was divided. The care of the Nabob's education was entrusted to Munnee Begum; the expenditure of the funds was given by Mr. Hastings to Gooroodass, the son of Nanda koomar. The majority of the Council objected not a little to his appointment, but Mr.

Hastings would not yield by their advice, and he subsequently paid dearly for this act of favor to his family.

The Affairs of the Company in England had now come to a crisis. Great as the mismanagement had been in India during five years, between the departure of Lord Clive in 1767 and the appointment of Mr. Hastings in 1772, the conduct of the Directors in England had been still worse.

When the wretched state of the Company's affairs was made public, Parliament determined to take them in hand, for hitherto it had never looked into Indian matters. A commitee was appointed to examine into the abuses which had been committed by the Company's government. After their report had been given in, the ministry perceived that nothing but a radical change could save the Company from ruin. They brought forward several proposals for refrom, in Parliament, which the Directors resisted with all their might; but inspite of all their opposition, Parliament supported the plans which the minister proposed. It was ordered that six Directors should go out of office every year, and six others be chosen in their room. It was ordered that the Governor of Bengal should be the Governor General of India, and that the other Presidencies should be subject to him in political matters. As there had been frequent disputes about power between the Governor and the Members of Council, it was settled that the Governor General should be the sole governor and commander of Fort William. The Governor General, the members of Council, and the Judges were forbidden to trade; and hence, his salary was fixed at two

lakhs and a half of rupees a year, and that of the Councillors at eighty thousand. It was also ordained that no person in the service of the Company or of the Crown should receive presents. All the correspondence from India which related to the government of the country, the Directors were ordered to lay before the King's ministers.

Regarding the administration of Justice, it was provided that a Supreme Court should be established in Calcutta, to consist of a Chief Justice at eighty thousand rupees, and three puisne judges at sixty thousand rupees a year. The Judges were to be independent of the Company, and to be appointed by the Crown, and the Court was to administer British law to British subject. It was ordained that this act, which was the first passed by Parliament relative to Indian affairs, should come into operation on the last of August, 1774.

Mr. Hastings had managed the affairs of Bengal with so much ability, that he was appointed the first Governor general. But notwithstanding his talents and his success, great prejudices existed against him, in England, and he was considered by those who knew nothing of the state of affairs, as a man of the worst principles. The new councillors, who were appointed to the Supreme Council to act with him, were Mr. Barwell, of the Civil Service, who was in India; and Colonel Monson, Sir John Clavering, and Mr. Francis, who had never been in this country. These three gentlemen came out with their minds strongly prejudiced against Mr. Hastings, and were disposed to look with an evil eye upon all his measures.

When the Council met, Mr. Hastings placed

before his colleagues, who were quite new to the affairs of India, a view of the state of the Company's affairs in every branch of public business. But in this first meeting those disputes broke out which distracted the Government of India for nearly seven years. Mr. Barwell alone sided with the Governor General; the other three members invariably voted against him upon every question, and as they formed the majority, the Governor General became a mere cypher; all power was in reality transferred to their hands. Two days after the first meeting of Council, the majority determined to recall Mr. Middleton from Lucknow, whom Mr. Hastings had sent there as the Resident, and to make heavy demands on the Nabob, contrary to all the engagements which Mr. Hastings had made with him.

The natives were not slow to remark the disputes in the Council, and to see that Mr. Hastings, who was lately supreme, had no longer any power. Accusations came in thick and fast. Even the infamous Nanda-koomar brought up a complaint against Mr. Hastings. He affirmed that the Governor General had received three lakhs and a half of Rupees for the appointment of Munnee Begum, and of his own son Gooroodas, to the Nabob's household at Moorshedabad. Mr. Francis and his party proposed that Nanda-koomar should be brought forward in the Council to give evidence. Mr. Hastings replied, that he would not allow this man to come to the Board at which he presided as his accuser. He said he would not degrade the office of Governor General in the eyes of all India by such base submission; but he offered at the same time to refer the whole

question to the Supreme Court. Mr. Hastings then rose and quitted the Council, and Mr. Barwell followed him. Mr. Francis and his party on their departure, called in Nanda-koomar, who read a letter, which he said had been written to him by Munnee Begum regarding the bribes she had given. A comparison was made between this letter, and one which she had written to Government, and which Sir John D'Oyly produced. The seals agreed, but the hand writing was not the same. After Nanda-koomar's death, the secret of this villainy was revealed. In his possession were found facsimilies of the seals of all the great personages in Bengal. There can be little doubt that the letter was a forgery, and that the seal was affixed to it by Nanda-koomar, and not by Munnee Begum. The Council, however, voted that Nanda-koomar's charge was true, and ordered that Mr. Hastings should refund the money, which he, of course, refused to do. While this affair was pending, Mr. Hastings brought an action for conspiracy against Nanda-koomar in the Supreme Court; and the three Members of Council to shew their dislike of the Governor General, went in a body to visit that native; a step which had never yet been taken in India. It was in this manner that Mr. Francis and his party continued for several years to thwart Mr. Hastings and to embarrass the government of the country.

A few days after Mr. Hasting's charge against Nanda-koomar, a native of the name of Komal-ood-deen, brought an action against him in the Supreme Court, for having forged his name to a deed. Nanda-koomar was found guilty, and hung in the month of July 1775. The

natives were thunderstruck when they saw one of the greatest men in India, and a Brahman, hung in the city Calcutta. The death of Nandakoomar has been charged upon Mr. Hastings, because it was believed that he supported the prosecution. But the fact is, that it was the act of the Supreme Court, and this was one among the complaints which were made against that tribunal some years after. Nanda kumar had been discovered in a treasonable correspondence with the enemies of the English, and since the battle of Plassey, had been constantly intriguing with every party, till he died unjustly. The crime, moreover, was not capital by the Hindoo law. He was put to death, therefore, contrary to reason or equity.

When the result of the trial of Mahomed Reza Khan reached England, the Directors said that they were perfectly satisfied of his innocence, and of the villainy of his accuser, Nanda koomar. They ordered that Gooroodass should be removed from the Nabob's household, and Mahomed Reza Khan appointed in his stead. The Supreme Council having now found that they had not time to preside in the SudderNizamut Adawlut in Calcutta, resolved to go back to the old plan, and to put the control of the criminal courts and of the police again under a native. This court was, therefore, moved back from Calcutta to Moorshedabad, and Mahomed Reza Khan placed at the head of it.

The lands had been let in farm for five years from 1772, with the understanding that the rents should be gradually increased. Both the parties in Council sent home their own plans for a new settlement, but the Directors rejected both. When

the leases expired in 1777, the lands were let by their orders for one year, and the system of farming continued from year to year to the year 1782. The rule adopted for the settlement was, that the average of the three previous years should be taken as the basis; and that in every case the lands should be made over to the old zemindars, where it was possible.

In September, 1776, Col. Monson died, and as there remained but two members of his party, Mr. Hastings regained his power in the council, because he had the casting vote.

Towards the close of 1778 the Nabob Mobarik-ood-dowlah came of age. He was removed by the advice of Mr. Hastings and his office of Naib Soobadar was abolished. The charge of the Nabob's household was at the same time committed to Munnee Begum. This arrangement greatly displeased the Court of Directors. They no sooner heard of it than they ordered the office to be re-established, and Mahomed Reza Khan to be put in it, and, at the same time, discharged Munnee Begum from her office about the person of the Nabob.

This year, 1778, is rendered memorable in the history of Bengal by the publication of the first works which had ever appeared in the Bengalee character. Mr. N. Halhed, a gentleman of eminent talents, had come out in the Civil Service about the year 1770, and applied himself to the study of the native languages. Under the patronage of Mr. Hastings, Mr. Halhed prepared, from native works a code of Hindu and Mahomedan laws, which was printed in 1775. In 1778 he published a Bengali Grammar the first which had ever appeared. It

was printed at Hooghly for as yet there was no press in the metropolis. Mr. Charles Wilkins, whose name deserves to be immortalized, had previously applied himself to the languages of the country. He was a very ingenious mechanic, and a man of great enterprise. With his own hands he cut and cast the first fount of Bengalee types which had ever been seen, and with them was his friend Halhed's Grammar published.

The disputes between the Supreme Court and the Government occasioned great misery to the country for several years. This Court was established in 1774, and made independent of the Company's Government. The Judges came out with very strong notions of the oppressions to which the people were subject, and with the idea that the Supreme Court was the best remedy for these grievances. The Supreme Court was no sooner set up, than it began to enlarge its jurisdiction. Any one might appear in it and swear that a zemindar, residing five hundred miles off was indebted to him; a writ or perwannah was immediately issued, and the zemindar was brought down and lodged in jail. The effects of this system were soon apparent. When the ryots, who never pay their rents willingly, saw the Zemindars and farmers dragged down to Calcutta, they refused to pay the rents at all. The greatest alarm spread through the country; the people saw themselves suddenly exposed to a new and awful danger. At this time, the old custom of confining the Zemindars, when they neglected to pay their revenues, which had existed from the most ancient time, was still in force. The Supreme Court began to interfere with this process of law. When the Zemindars found

that by applying to this Court they could be freed from arrest, they very naturally refused to pay their rents; thus the public collections were almost suspended. The Supreme Court gradually laid its hands on every branch of public business. When a farm was sold, because the farmer would not pay the revenue for which he had agreed, the new farm was brought down into the Court and ruined. When a Zemindar purchased an estate, paupers sued him in the Supreme Court, and often, for legally collecting his rents, he was fined and disgraced.

In the same manner, the Supreme Court extended its power to the Criminal Courts in the interior. The Judges of the Court declared that though Mobarik-ood-dowlah, owed no allegiance to the King of England or his laws, the Court thought it fit actually to issue a writ against him. The Court, they said, was set up to protect the natives from the injustice and oppression of the Company's servants, and this could not be done, unless they assumed such vast powers. Their object was to make the Supreme Court every thing, the Supreme Government, nothing.

The Governor General and his Council saw that the power of Government was destroyed by the Supreme Court, but they scarcely dared to resist. The Judges declared that they were King's Judge's, vastly superior in power to any officer of a Company's Government, and they threatened all who disobeyed their orders with the penalty of treason. Petitions were presented to Parliament by the British inhabitants of Calcutta, and by the Governor General in Council, praying for relief from the oppression of the

Court. The subject was fully discussed, and a new act was passed which took away that jurisdiction over the whole country which the Court had been so anxious to obtain.

Before this act was passed, Mr. Hastings devised means for quieting the Supreme Court, by putting a stop in the mouth of the Judges. He made the Chief Justice, Sir Elijah Impey, the first Judge of the Sudder Dewanny Adawult, with an additional salary of 5,000 Rupees a month, and 600 Rs. a month, for the rent of an office. About this time, Mr. Hastings Made a great improvement in the country Courts. He erected Civil or Dewanny Courts in various zillahs, to hear civil suits ; and ordered the Provincial Court, to confine themselves to revenue affairs. The Chief Justice having taken his seat in the Sudder Dewanny Court, drew up certain regulations for the guidance of the Civil Courts throughout the country. These were afterwards increased to ninety, and became the basis of the Civil Code of Lord Cornwallis.

When the intelligence of Sir Elijah Impey's appointment reached England, the Court of Directors violently condemned it. The English Government recalled Sir Elijah Impey and put him on his trial for having accepted it.

On the 29th January, 1780, the first newspaper ever published in India, made its appearnce in Calcutta.

During the next four years Mr. Hastings was employed chiefly out of Bengal in managing the affairs of Benares and Oude, in a war with Hyder Aly, the Rajah of Mysore, and in negotiations all over India. His conduct in the Western Provinces was greatly censured in

England, both by the Directors and in Parliament. It was even proposed in the House of Commons that he should be recalled for having acted against the honour and interests of England; but the vote did not pass, and he remained at his post. After having made another tour to Oude at the close of 1784, he returned to Calcutta, early in 1785, made over the keys of the treasury and of Fort William to his successor, Mr. Macpherson, and embarked for England, where he arrived in June.

In the year 1783, Sir William Jones came out to this country as one of the Judges of the Supreme Court. As a scholar he had acquired great distinction in his native land. His chief reason for coming to India was that he might be able to investigate the early history, religion and habits of the country. He immediately applied himself to the study of Sanskrit. He made such progress in this tongue, as to be able to translate the laws of Manu into English. In the year 1784, he set up the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, for the purpose of enquiring into the habits, the languages, and institutions of ancient India. Mr. Hastings gave the Society the warmest encouragement, and became its first President. Sir William Jones was one of the most illustrious Englishmen who had ever appeared in India; and his name is held in the highest reverence by the best educated natives. He died, after having lived ten years in the country, at the age of forty-nine.

Mr. Hastings had no sooner landed in England than the Directors, by a public vote, declared their approbation of his conduct. He was not without blame in many of his proceedings in In-

dia; but it must be confessed that he acted with the utmost skill and vigour; and that it was he who consolidated the empire which Clive had conquered.

The affairs of te Company came under the notice of Parliament in 1783. Mr. William Pitt, the Prime Minister brought forward a new plan for the management of this country, which was approved both by Parliament and by the King. Up to this time, the court of Directors had governed the country without any control from the King's ministers; but by Mr. Pitt's Bill which passed in 1784, a Board of Commissioners, usually called the board of control, was set up in order to look into the affairs of India. All the members of this Board were appointed by the Crown, and they had a right to interfere in all Indian affairs, except in the Company's trade. From this period the government of this country has been conducted in England jointly by the king's Ministers and by the Company.

Marquis Cornwallis.

Mr. Hastings left the Government in the hands of Sir John Macpherson; but as soon as the Directors heard that he was coming home, they appointed Lord Cornwallis to the united office of Governor General and Commander-in-Chief. He reached India in 1786; and his high character and large power, put an end at once to those disputes by which Mr. Hasting's Government had been weakened. He governed the country with great success for seven years.

Great animosity continued to prevail against Mr. Hastings in England; and at length on the 13th February, 1788, he was impeached by the

House of Commons at the bar of the House of Lords, of high crimes and misdemeanors. The trial was spun out by various delays to seven years, and at length on the 23rd April, 1795, the House of Lords, with a few exceptions, acquitted him of all the charges which had been brought against him.

The great measure which has made the name of Cornwallis so memorable in India, is the Permanent Settlement of the land revenues of Bengal and Behar. The frequent changes which had taken place in the collection of the rents, appeared to the Court of Directors injurious to the country. A settlement was, therefore, made for ten years, and it was proclaimed that if the Court of Directors approve of it, it should be made permanent. Mr. John Shore, one of the most eminent Civil Servants in the Company's service, gave the most valuable assistance to Government in framing it. In this decennial settlement it was fixed, that the Zemindars who had hitherto been only the Collectors of the revenue, should be considered the Lords of the soil. and that the settlement of the rents should be made with them. When the whole plan had been submitted to the Court of Directors, they lost no time in signifying their approbation of it, and desired Lord Cornwallis to make it fixed and permanent for ever. A proclamation was made on the 22nd of March, 1793, fixing for ever the rent of Bengal and Behar at 3;10,89.150 rupees, and that of Benares at 40,00,615. There can be no doubt that the Permanent Settlement has been a great blessing to Bengal. But there were two evils attending it. The first, that it was made without a suffici-

ent knowledge of the land and of its value. The second, that no adequate provision was made for the protection of the cultivators.

The year 1793 is also remarkable in the History of Bengal, as the year in which the laws and institutions of the British Government in Bengal first obtained a fixed form. They were translated into the native languages, and widely circulated through the country. Lord Cornwallis established five grades in the Civil Courts, the Moonsiff and Sudder Ameen, the Registrar, the Zillah Judge, the Provincial Court, and the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, which was the last appeal in India. He raised the salaries of all the civil servants of the Company; but at the same time the salaries of the Native Officers were fixed at the lowest scale.

The Court of Directors, to mark their sense of his merits, ordered that his statue should be placed in the India House, and they gave him a pension of 50,000 rupees a year, for twenty years, to commence from the day of his leaving India.

Sir John Shore.

On the 28th of October, Sir John Shore entered upon the duties of Governor General. The year after his appointment, India was deprived by death of that upright Judge, and renowned scholar, Sir William Jones, at the age of forty-seven.

In the year 1795, the Nabob Mobarik-ood-dowlah died, and was succeeded by his son Nazir-ool-moolk. Sir John Shore, who had been created Lord Teignmouth, governed India in peace for five years, and then requested leave to resign his

office. No event occurred in Bengal of sufficient importance to deserve a record; but the close of his administration was gloomy. The army had begun to shew signs of disaffection. Tippoo Sultan, the chief of Mysore, had opened a correspondence with the French, who were at war with the English, and invited them to send troops to his assistance. The Court of Directors, taking all these circumstances into view, determined to send out a man of nerve as Governor General.

Marquis Wellesley.

The Directors immediately nominated Lord Mornington, afterwards the Marquis of Wellesley to this high office. He reached Calcutta on the 18th May, 1798. No sooner had he taken the affairs of India in hand, than all those fears which had been felt about the empire, vanished. He very soon brought the army into a state of complete order. The French officers, who commanded a large army at Hyderabad, were expelled; the troops they had raised, were disbanded, and an English army was substituted in their stead. War was at once declared with Tippoo. He proceeded in person to Madras, and assumed the entire direction of affairs himself. A British army was suddenly assembled, and on the 27th of March, 1799, began its march, against Tippoo. So rapid were its movements that his capital, Seringapatam, fell on the 4th of May, into the hands of the English. Tippoo was found among the slain, and thus ended the reign of Hyder's family. The Court of Directors, on hearing of this brilliant campaign, bestowed a pension of fifty thousand rupees a year on the Governor General.

In October, 1799, the first Protestant Missionary establishment in Bengal was formed at Serampore by Dr. Marshman and Mr. Ward, and their colleagues. Dr. Carey, who had come out to India six years before, and had resided in the district of Malda, came down immediately and joined them, and these three men formed what is so well known as the Serampore Mission, the chief object of which was the propagation of the Christian religion in India. They immediately set up a printing office; and published the Mahabharata, the Ramayan, and many other works in Bengalee, and gave the first impulse to the cultivation of this language. They engaged in the translation of the Scripture into the Bengalee, the Sanskrit, and other languages of India. They established the first Bengalee Schools under European direction; and all these labours they not only undertook without reward, but devoted their own large income to the promotion of them. The Bengalee language is more indebted to their exertions than to those of any other individual; and the first movements towards the civilization and improvement of this country may be said to have taken their rise at Serampore.

Lord Wellesley, finding the Civil servants imperfectly acquainted with the languages of the country, established the College of Fort William in Calcutta in the year 1800. All Writers on their arrival from England were placed in this institution, and no appointment was given them till they had passed an examination, and were reported to be qualified for the public service. Able pandits were retained; and various works in Bengalee and other languages were compiled

and printed; and thus a new impulse was given to the improvement of the country. The learned Mrityunjay, a native of Orissa, was appointed chief of the native department, and reflected high honour on the institution by his great talents. Among the earliest efforts by which the Bengalee language was brought out into use, and improved, we must reckon therefore the establishment of the Serampore Mission, and that of the College of Fort William, in which Dr. Carey was the Professor of that tongue.

In 1803, Lord Wellesley found himself forced into a war with Scindia and Holkar. It did not last long. Both these powerful chiefs were defeated, and humbled; and no small portion of their dominion was annexed to the British empire. In the month of September the British for the first time took possession of Delhi, the ancient capital of the Mahomedans. The emperor, who had been ill-treated by the Mahrattas, fell into their hands, and they re-established him in his dignity of Emperor without the power, and gave him a pension of fifteen lakhs of rupees a year. At the same time, disputes commenced with the Rajah of Nagpore, and Lord Wellesly immediately sent an army into Orissa. The Mahrattas retired, and on the 18th September, 1803, the temple of Jagannath was taken by the English troops, and the whole province of Orissa was annexed to Bengal. A few years after the British Government took charge of the temple. A part of the revenue was devoted to the temple; the rest went to the public treasury.

It had been the custom from time immemorial for parents to sacrifice their children at Ganga Sagur. The children were taken down to that

island, and, after holy texts had been read and poojah performed, were thrown into the sea. The practice, though it arose from religious motives, was no where enjoined in the shastras. The Governor General issued a Regulation on the 20th August, 1802, forbidding the custom entirely, and sent a company of sepoys to prevent it.

The career of Lord Wellesley was the most brilliant period of our Indian history. In the various wars into which he was forced, he extended, this empire one third beyond its former size, and increased the revenues to fifteen crores, forty lakhs of rupees. But with this increase of revenue there was also an increase of debt. The Directors expressed their severe displeasure at the warlike measures which he had pursued, and were anxious to adopt a more peaceful policy. Seeing that he had lost the confidence of the Court he sent a public reply in Council to their letter, and then resolved to withdraw from the Government. He embarked for England towards the close of 1805. On his arrival, he was assailed both in and out of Parliament, just as his two great predecessors, Clive and Hastings had been, though not with the same violence.

Marquis Cornwallis.

The Court of Directors had now determined to make peace at any sacrifice, and to reduce their expenditure. They selected Lord Cornwallis for their new Governor General, and though he was greatly advanced in years he agreed to their proposals, and embarked for Calcutta, where he landed on the 30th July, 1805. He proceeded without delay to the western provinces, to conclude treaties with the native powers; but his health

gradually declined as he went on, and he expired at Ghazeepore on the 5th of October of the same year.

Sir George Barlow and Lord Minto.

Sir George Barlow, the senior member of Council, immediately succeeded him as Governor General. His appointment to this high office was confirmed by the Court of Directors, but the King's Ministers informed them that the nomination to this post belonged to them. Some sharp discussion took place, which was concluded by appointing Lord Minto as Governor General.

Lord Minto landed in Calcutta on the 31st of July 1807. During his administration, which extended to the end of the year 1813, no material change was made in the affairs of Bengal, except that the transit duties were placed under a new arrangement, more severe than ever. An addition was thus made to the revenues of the country, but trade was interrupted, and the people were subject to the severest oppression.

In the year 1813, the Charter of the Company, which had been granted by Parliament, twenty years before, expired, and a new Charter was given. Before this period, the entire trade between England and India, had been exclusively in the hands of the company. But the Company which had begun with a counting house, was now seated on the throne of India ; and it was considered that the sovereign should not trade.

On the 4th of October, 1813, Lord Minto resigned the government of India into the hands of Lord Moira, afterwards the Marquis of Hastings, and returned to England, but died before he could reach his own house.

The Marquis of Hastings.

Lord Hastings, on assuming the government, found that the Nepaulese had been gradually making encroachments on the English territories. He used all means in his power to preserve peace, but the insolence of the Court of Catamundoo obliged him at length, in the year 1814, to declare war. In 1815, the British troops under General Ochterlony were completely successful. The Napaulese were obliged to purchase a peace by giving up a large portion of their territories.

The Pindarees in Central India, a large body of robbers, mounted on horseback, had been in the habit for many years of plundering the whole of that country; and they had latterly entered the British territories. Lord Hastings ordered a large army to be assembled from the three Presidencies. The troops gradually surrounded these freebooters in their haunts, and one by one cut up, and effectually destroyed all their divisions. While the army was in the field in pursuit of the Pindarees, the Peshwa, the Nagpore Rajah and Holkar, all rose with one accord against the English, in the hope of being able, by a combined effort, to expel them from the country. But all these chiefs were defeated; the Peshwa and the Nagpore Rajah were dethroned, and a large portion of their dominions was annexed to the British territories. The power of the Pindarees and of the Mahrattas was entirely broken, and the British became predominant in India.

Before the days of Lord Hastings, no effort had been made to give the blessings of education to the people. It was considered bad policy to enlighten them, because their ignorance was regarded as a kind of security for the continuance of the empire. Lord Hastings rejected this barbarous notion. He declared that the British government had been planted in India for the good of the people; and that it was the duty of the English to raise them in the scale of civilization. A new era commenced in his reign; schools were set up, and efforts to improve the native mind, were, for the first time, encouraged. On the 29th of May, 1818, the first Native newspaper which had ever been published in India, appeared from the Serampore Press, under the title of *Samachar Darpan*. As soon as Lord Hastings was presented with a copy of it, instead of feeling alarm at this novel attempt to enlighten the people, he took it into Council, and passed an order allowing it to be circulated at one fourth of the ordinary postage. About the same period the Calcutta School-Book Society was formed at Calcutta, under the auspices of Lady Hastings, chiefly through the efforts of Mr. W. B. Bayley and Dr. Carey. At the same time, a School Society was formed in the metropolis for the education of native youths. Large schools for instructing the natives through their own language were opened in the neighbourhood of Chinsurah, by the Rev. Mr. May, and in that of Serampore by the Serampore Missionaries. The Hindu College, at which so many thousand natives have imbibed a knowledge of the English language and of European science, was also established, chiefly through the exertions of Sir Edward Hyde

East, Sir Hartington, and Mr. David Hare. The liberal spirit of the Marquis of Hastings was caught by the Europeans and natives; and institutions which would not have been dreamt of some years before, sprung up, and were supported with the utmost liberality.

Lord Hastings left India in January, 1823. By his great exertions, during nine years, the territories of the Company had been greatly increased, the revenues improved, and the debt diminished. At no period had the British empire in India been in a more flourishing state. The treasury was full; and income exceeded the expenditure by nearly two crores of rupees a year.

Lord Amherst.

During the interval, between the departure of Lord Hastings, and the arrival of Lord Amherst, who landed in Calcutta on the 1st of August, 1828, the Post of Governor General was filled by the senior Member of Council, Mr. John Adam. His administration was remarkable only for the odious measure of laying restrictions on the Press.

Lord Amherst found on his arrival in Calcutta, that the conduct of the Burmese required his immediate attention. While at peace with English Government, the king of Burma had pushed some of his troops into the Company's territories in the direction of Cachar and Arracan, made an attack on the island of Shapooree on the Arracan coast, and put to death some of the small guard stationed there. These aggressions induced the Governor General to declare war against the Burmese on the 5th March, 1824. On the 11th May, the British troops landed in the

Burmese territories and took possession of the valuable seaport of Rangoon. Soon after, the province of Assam and Arracan and the coast of Mergui were taken possession of. In the beginning of 1826, the king agreed to the terms proposed by the English; and a treaty was concluded which passes under the name of the Treaty of Yandaboo. By it the Burmese relinquished to the English Munipore, Assam and Arracan and the whole of the Martaban coast, and agreed, to pay one crore of rupees towards the expenses of the war.

While the English troops were employed in hostilities with the Burmese, dicussions arose with the chief of Bharatpore, and on the 18th of January, 1826, the place was taken by Lord Combermere, the Commander-in-Chief. These military operations in Burmah and before Bharatpore involved the Government in a debt of more than thirteen crores of Rupees.

In 1827, Lord Amherst proceeded to the Western Provinces, and visited Delhi. An explanation then took place with the king relative to the position and character of the British Government. The Governor General distinctly informed his Majesty, that whatever vassalege the English might be supposed to owe to the house of Timur, was at an end and that the crown of Hindustan had passed over to them. This declaration was made just sixty years after the battle of Plassey.

Lord William Bentinck.

Lord Amherst left the government in the hands of Mr. William Butterworth Bayley, and returned to England at the close of March, 1828.

Lord William Bentinck was appointed Governor General in 1828. His Lordship arrived in Calcutta on the 4th of July, 1828. The finances of the country, were now in the most deplorable state. His Lordship, notwithstanding all the clamour that was raised against him, pursued his way steadily and clamly till he had succeeded in diminishing the expenses of government and making a provision for wiping out the debt.

The attention of Government had been drawn for many years to the rite of Suttee, and enquiries had been made to ascertain the extent to which it was practised, and the feelings of the people, and on the 4th of December, 1829, that memorable act was passed, by which this cruel and murderous practice was extinguished throughout the British dominions. An address was made to Lord Bentinck by a body of very influential natives, at the head of whom were Dwarkanath Tagore and Roy Kaleenath Chowdry, offering their warm thanks for this benevolent act. Those who advocated the rite, sent an English Attorney to England, to beg that the practice might be restored. But the King's ministers, after having heard of all that could be said in its favour, confirmed the abolition.

In 1831, a great change began to be made in the Courts of Justice. It is impossible, however, in this brief sketch to detail the various improvements which were made during the active reign of Lord William Bentinck. They all had for their object, to raise the native character, and to simplify public business.

In the year 1831, Ram Mohan Roy embarked for England. He was the most enlightened native who had appeared for a long time in Bengal. He was

by birth a brahman ; and his mind was filled with various knowledge. He had endeavoured to withdraw his countrymen from the worship of the gods and godesses, and to bring them back to the simple system of the Vedas. But strange to say, he was treated by his fellow-countrymen as a heretic. We have already mentioned, that the supremacy of the imperial family of Timur was abolished in the time of Lord Amherst. The emperor was anxious to regain the honours which he had lost, and he determined to appeal to the Home authorities. He chose Ram Mohan Roy to plead his cause. Ram Mohan Roy embarked for England, where he was received with very great distinction. The British Government refused to acknowledge the supremacy of the House of Timur. He died before his return and lies buried near the city of Bristol.

It was in the year 1833 that the Charter of the Company was renewed after another lapse of twenty years. Great changes were thereby made in the public affairs of the country. The Company was obliged to put off entirely the commercial character which they had borne for two hundred and thirty-three years, and to confine themselves to the government of India. It was provided that the holders of East India Stock in England should receive sixty-five lakhs of rupees a year out of the revenues of India for twenty years, a measure which has been universally and justly condemned. A Legislative Council was to be formed at calcutta, to consist of all the ordinary members of Council, and of one member, not in the Company's service. A law Commission was also nominated to frame a Code of Laws for the whole country. The Governor General was made

the Supreme ruler throughout India, and the other Presidencies were placed under his authority. The Bengal Presidency was divided into two, that of Calcutta and that of Agra.

Great encouragement was given during the administration of Lord William Bentinck to the education of the people, especially in the English language. In 1813, Parliament had directed that the sum of one lakh of Rupees a year of the public revenues should be laid out for the improvement of the people in learning. This sum had been devoted almost entirely to the support of Sanskrit and Arabic literature. Lord William Bentinck considered the study of the English Language as of far greater importance; and expended a sum greatly exceeding the grant of Parliament in the establishment of English schools. By these and other means, the desire for the study of the English language became very generally diffused through the country.

One of the most beneficial acts of his reign was the establishment of the native Medical College in Calcutta upon a large scale. The benefit resulting from this institution is likely to be incalculable.

It was during Lord William Bentinck's reign that a Saving's Bank was established in Calcutta, in order to promote economy among the people of the country. His Lordship also turned his attention to the Transit Duties. It has been the custom from time immemorial to levy duties on all articles, the growth of tho country, passing from one part of it to the other. Though they were not done away with during his Lordship's administration, yet the merit of

having taken the first step towards abolishing them, is due to him.

Lord William had been from the commencement of his administration the great advocate of steam navigation both by sea and on the rivers of Bengal. He did all in his power to establish a monthly communication between England and India, but the Directors threw every obstacle in the way, and his Lordship prevailed on them to adopt the plan of employing iron steamers to navigate the rivers of Bengal and the Western Provinces.

No war with external enemies disturbed Lord Willam Bentinck's administration, which closed in March, 1835. It was passed in peace and tranquility, and was devoted to the improvement of the people.

FINIS.